

# Jordan Times

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## Magazine: PLO to move to Amman in stages

TUNIS (AP) — The independent magazine Realities reported Friday that the political leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will be transferred gradually to Amman. Citing well-informed but unnamed sources, the magazine said the reasons for the transfer were an improvement in relations between the PLO and the Jordanian government, and moving towards resolving the Middle East conflict. It said that Tunisia, which has been home to the PLO since it withdrew from Beirut after the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, had no problems with continuing to host the organisation. Tunisian and Palestinian sources would not comment on the report. Amman and the PLO are currently discussing forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to participate in a Middle East peace conference scheduled for October. Palestinian leaders planned meetings this weekend to prepare for a meeting in mid-September in Algiers of the Palestinian National Council. The council is expected to endorse the PLO position on the peace conference, to be jointly sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has so far rejected Israeli conditions that the PLO play no role and that Palestinians from east Jerusalem be excluded.

## Iraq to reopen holy Shiite shrines

BAGHDAD (R) — Holy shrines in the southern Iraqi cities of Karbala and Najaf, badly damaged during a Shiite rebellion in March, will reopen to the public Sunday and Monday, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Friday. The shrines to Ali, cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad, in Najaf, and Ali's sons, Abbas and Hussein, in Karbala, are among the most sacred pilgrimage destinations for Shiites, a majority in Iraq. The agency said large religious ceremonies would be held in Karbala to mark the reopening of the shrines there Sunday. The shrine to Ali would be reopened Monday. The two main mosques in Karbala, about 200 metres apart, came under heavy shelling when the last of thousands of rebels took shelter there as the army crushed the rebellion. The land immediately around them has been cleared but all the houses in the area are in ruins from the heavy fighting. Abbas's shrine appeared to be close to full restoration when visited by reporters Wednesday. Workers were still repairing shellholes in the gold-leafed dome and one of the main gates was still in scaffolding. The shrine to Hussein was more badly damaged and even the tomb was struck by bullets. Work was less advanced with mountains of bricks piled outside the entrances.

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## King meets Hurd

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein met Thursday with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and discussed with him efforts to resolve the Middle East problem. King Hussein stressed the need to continue contacts between Jordan and Britain to find a just and honourable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem. The King and Mr. Hurd also discussed bilateral relations.

## Iraq attacks U.N. resolution as denying it food

BAGHDAD (R) — Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh said Friday that a U.N. Security Council resolution allowing Baghdad to resume oil sales to Iraq would be denying it food. He said in a statement that U.N. Security Council Resolution 706 was designed to harm Iraq at the direction of the United States. Iraq, under trade sanctions since it invaded Kuwait just over a year ago, asked the world body to let it sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil to buy vital food and medicine. The United Nations approved the sale but only on condition that the proceeds go into a special account for it to handle. Baghdad has rejected this as unworkable. Mr. Saleh said the \$1.6 billion would only provide Iraq's minimum essential needs of food and medicine for a six-month period.

## Shamir ends visit to Bulgaria

SOFIA (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir left Bulgaria after a visit to Sofia Friday, which both sides agreed to expand their political, economic and technical cooperation. The Israeli-Bulgarian news agency BTA said. A joint communiqué said Mr. Shamir and Bulgarian Prime Minister Dimitar Popov had signed an agreement on "economic, industrial, technological and scientific cooperation which also provided for setting up joint ventures with capital from foreign financial institutions. Israel also opened up a \$3 million credit line to Bulgaria for imports from Israel. Following his talks with Mr. Shamir, Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev said reports improved ties with Israel did not mean that Bulgaria would downgrade its relations with Arab countries.

## Ireland protests to Israel

DUBLIN (R) — Ireland protested to Israel Friday over what it called "unprovoked" sporadic firing by Israeli-controlled militia in Lebanon and said Irish positions had been hit several times by heavy machine-gun fire. The Irish Defence Ministry said in a statement that Ireland had expressed its grave concern and total disapproval of the Israeli military and military operations. Since Friday, Irish military positions in Lebanon have been hit by heavy machine-gun fire on a number of occasions, it said. "Violence and terrorism have been made to the Israeli army at all levels by the United Nations Security Council in Lebanon (UNIFIL)."

## India to debate law banning Sonia Gandhi as leader

NEW DELHI (R) — India's parliament debated Friday to debate a law to ban Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, from the country's leadership. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) moved a bill which would ban "a person who is not a citizen" by birth from becoming India's president, vice-president or prime minister. Sonia Gandhi, an Italian national who married Mr. Gandhi in 1969, was acquired Indian citizenship in 1982 after opposition to a law that a foreigner should not be sharing a house with Mr. Gandhi's mother, then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

## Azerbaijan declares independence; other republics consolidate positions

Combined agency despatches

AZERBAIJAN DECLARED independence Friday, becoming the eighth Soviet republic to do so, and Russia signed a treaty with Kazakhstan, its second bilateral agreement this week.

More than half of the 15 republics — with about 80 million of the Soviet Union's 290 million people — have now declared independence from a Kremlin weakened by last week's botched coup.

The Azerbaijan legislature, meeting in the republic's capital of Baku, unanimously passed the independence measure, according to the independent Turan news agency.

The Baltic states of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania all proclaimed independence last week and the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Moldavia and Georgia did so after the failed hardline coup.

Some of the republics declaring independence might be doing so to gain bargaining power against President Mikhail Gorbachev and

Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin. However, Azerbaijani nationalists have long been agitating to unite with the Azerbaijani region across the border in northern Iran. Iran is vehemently opposed to the idea.

Azerbaijan is engaged in a bloody ethnic conflict with the neighbouring republic of Armenia over the jurisdiction of Nagorno-Karabakh. That mountainous region inside of Azerbaijan is populated predominantly by Armenians.

A mostly Muslim state which borders Iran and lies between the Caucasus mountains and the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan has been a major oil producing centre for years, with large refineries.

Russia and Kazakhstan, the two largest Soviet republics, agreed Friday to respect their existing border and to work to prevent the "uncontrolled disintegration" of the country.

Kazakhstan stretches over much of Central Asia, bordering the Caspian Sea and China.

The agreement was signed in the Kazakh capital of Alma-Ata

by Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev. The agreement urges all 15 republics, regardless of their independence ambitions, to negotiate a new economic agreement.

Russia and the Ukraine, the second most-populous republic, agreed Thursday to form an economic and military alliance and to invite other republics to join them.

A Yeltsin aide earlier this week set off fears of renewed Russian domination by saying that Russia, the largest and wealthiest republic, reserved the right to renegotiate its borders with seceding republics.

Seeking to allay such fears, Mr. Yeltsin said Thursday that his republic would be the heart of a new system of equal independent states that would leave limited power for Mr. Gorbachev.

Fears of Russian expansionism triggered demonstrations on Thursday in several cities in Russia's southern neighbour Kazakhstan; and legislators in Byelorussia, Russia's western

border, expressed similar concern Friday, TASS reported.

"I want to state firmly that the collapse of the centre is not tantamount to a collapse of the country, let alone Russia," Mr. Yeltsin said Thursday in an address broadcast on Radio Rossiya, controlled by his government.

After a secret flight from Moscow, Mr. Yeltsin was in the Baltics on Friday to discuss independence issues with the breakaway republics, his spokesman said.

The spokesman said the Russian leader was travelling through Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

He declined to give Mr. Yeltsin's exact whereabouts, but said he had gone to the Baltics on an unannounced flight Thursday.

In Latvia, Member of Parliament Janis Krums said Mr. Yeltsin had flown to Riga Thursday and later held talks with President Anatolijs Gorbunovs and Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis.

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## Bush and Major end talks on Soviet turmoil

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (R) — U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister John Major Friday wrapped up two days of talks about Western strategy towards the turmoil in the Soviet Union.

"We've done an awful lot of business here," said Mr. Bush as he bade farewell to the British leader. "I think the consultations we've had on the Soviet Union... have been fruitful from the United States' standpoint."

The prime minister, who flies to Moscow Sunday for talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, praised Mr. Bush for his leadership of the West.

"It is the sort of year you see very rarely indeed," Mr. Major told the president, referring to the U.S.-led victory over Iraq in the Gulf war as well as the radical change in the Soviet Union after the failure of a right-wing coup.

"I think with the leadership that you've given in the West, we've been in safe hands," he added.

Mr. Major and his family were guests of the president at his seaside holiday home, but what was to have been a social visit became a policy meeting as a result of the Soviet upheaval.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Major told reporters Thursday they agreed the West's priorities in helping the Soviet Union through its transformation from Communist rule should be food aid and technical economic assistance — essentially the plan adopted at July's London summit.

Before leaving Walker's Point, the president's estate, Mr. Major

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## Pankin says Bessmertnykh ordered him to back coup

MOSCOW (AP) — New Foreign Minister Boris D. Pankin revealed Friday that while still ambassador to Czechoslovakia he was ordered by his predecessor, Alexander Bessmertnykh, to back the coup against Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Pankin said in a Soviet television interview broadcast Friday that he received in Prague at least one document signed by Mr. Bessmertnykh ordering him to obey the eight-man committee that led the coup.

Other orders were signed by Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Kvitinsky, he said.

Then on the day the three-day coup collapsed, "we started getting documents — instructions — telling us to obey completely different documents and to act in an absolutely opposite way," Mr. Pankin said, adding the new orders were signed by Mr. Kvitinsky.

Mr. Bessmertnykh has insisted he did not follow orders of coup leaders and spent the three days at his office working "for the good and in the defence of national interests of our country."

But Mr. Gorbachev, who has stressed loyalty in appointing a new cabinet of ministers, fired Mr. Bessmertnykh for remaining silent until the end of the putsch, and replaced him with the little-known Pankin.

Mr. Pankin was appointed Wednesday, apparently in large part because he was the only Soviet envoy to condemn the coup against President Gorbachev as it unfolded.

In statements Thursday, Mr. Pankin said his goal is to steer the country "into the world of civilized states," the same aim pursued during the five-year tenure of Edward Shevardnadze, who quit in December warning of impending dictatorship. Mr. Bessmertnykh was his replacement.

Diplomats in Moscow predicted the central government will be forced to give the emerging republics some of its initiative in shaping Soviet foreign policy, diminishing Mr. Pankin's role.

One Western diplomat suggested Mr. Pankin could be an interim appointment as Mr.



Boris Pankin

Gorbachev, Mr. Yeltsin and other Soviet leaders struggle to redefine the Soviet political structure.

Any shift in Soviet foreign policy could become apparent on Sunday, when British Prime Minister John Major becomes the first Western government leader to visit Moscow since the coup. Mr. Major also plans talks with Russian Federation President Boris N. Yeltsin.

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## Iraq denounces Kuwaiti charges of infiltration on Bubiyan Island

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq Friday denounced Kuwait's allegations of Iraqi infiltration on Bubiyan Island as fabrication and said Kuwait was trying to perpetuate the economic blockade against the Baghdad government.

In a letter to the Security Council, Ambassador Sahab Talat Kadrat said Kuwait's allegation "without any foundation."

Mr. Kadrat said Kuwait's allegations are "malicious expedients intended to perpetuate the blockade of Iraq, to secure a stranglehold on its people and to create confusion as to Iraq's full compliance with the resolutions of the Security Council." He said Iraq is complying with all Security Council resolutions.

Kuwait has called on the Security Council to take unspecified action to prevent "further violations of the Gulf war ceasefire." On Thursday, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar called the report of Iraq incursion "very serious." U.N. military observers were investigating.

Kuwait told the Security Council that Wednesday 80 to 100 Iraqi soldiers disguised as civilians landed on the island of Bubiyan, strategically located in the Gulf.

Kuwait says that Iraqi attackers used heavy weapons in attacking the island and were supported by reinforcements by military boats from the Fa'o Peninsula. Kuwait says its forces sank seven Iraqi boats and took 43 prisoners in the clash.

Iraq also accused Kuwait of falsely accusing it of involvement in the incident to justify the long-term presence of U.S. forces in the emirate.

Iraq suggested that infiltrators from Iran had landed on the Kuwaiti island, which dominates Iraq's only outlet to the Gulf.

Kuwait's ruling Al Sabah family is fanning the rumour of Iraq's armed attack on Bubiyan to put Kuwait under Washington's trusteeship and keep American forces in the region to safeguard the family's interests," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted the Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadisiyah as saying.

Wednesday's clash was described by Britain as the most serious violation so far of the Gulf war ceasefire and the State Department in Washington said it was concerned by the reports.

Western security sources in Kuwait told Reuters the clash began after Kuwaiti coastguards stopped five boats and found that they were carrying ammunition from the island left over from the Gulf war.

They said gunboats and speed-boats attempted to cover the fishing vessels' retreat but the Kuwaiti air force engaged the gunboats and at least one was sunk.

Al Qadisiyah repeated denials of Iraqi involvement, saying there were no Iraqi forces in the area.

A United Nations team visited the island Thursday to investigate

the Kuwaiti complaint.

In Kuwait, a spokesman for UNIKOM — the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission — told Reuters the team would report to U.N. headquarters in New York.

UNIKOM patrols the demilitarized zone along the Kuwait-Iraq border but has no observation posts on Bubiyan, long claimed by Baghdad.

Kuwait, trying to fill the vacuum caused by the withdrawal of Western forces from the emirate, has appealed to Britain and the United States to establish military bases there.

The United States, which led a multinational coalition to victory over Iraq's occupation armies in Kuwait at the end of February, said Tuesday that U.S. forces would remain in the emirate for a few months beyond a Sept. 1 deadline for their withdrawal.

The U.S. Defence Department said the size of the force would be cut to 1,500 troops from 3,700 and it stressed Washington had no plans to establish any permanent ground military presence in the region.

Kuwait's main Gulf allies, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have called for firm action by the 22-member Arab League and the international community to prevent "further military actions" by the Iraqis.

A Saudi government spokesman said in a statement issued late Thursday that the Iraqi move

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YUGOSLAV STRIFE: Federal army Croatian forces in the Croatian-held town of troops, backed by tanks and armour, move against Vukovar (see page 8)

## Jordan assails Israeli plans to expand Jewish settlements

AMMAN (I.T.) — Jordan said Friday that Israeli plans to resettle tens of thousands of Jews in the occupied West Bank would undermine Middle East peace plans.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensur told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the plans, announced by Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, would change the demographic balance of the West Bank, making a peace settlement based on U.N. resolutions impossible.

Mr. Sharon told Israel's parliament last week that he wanted to ensure there were a million Jews in the Jerusalem area by connecting the Holy City with the largest West Bank settlement.

"Israel's plans to settle one million Jews in Arah Jerusalem and to link the Holy City with Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank expose Israel's real intentions vis-a-vis efforts to achieve peace in the region," Dr. Ensur said.

"These plans, which are adopted and approved by the Israeli government, constitute a flagrant and dangerous violation of international law and a total disregard of international legitimacy and the world community's drive to resolve the Middle East problem," Dr. Ensur said.

The minister called on countries of the world and international organisations to confront Israel's expansionist plans, "which, aim at tipping the bad peace efforts, which, for the first time, seem to be very serious towards ending for good the Arab-Israeli conflict."

"Should these Israeli plans be implemented," said the minister, "aspired for peace would be out of reach because of the new realities that would be created on the ground."

Dr. Ensur made the statement one day after returning to Amman after accompanying His Majesty King Hussein on a visit to Austria which ended Wednesday.

The minister said that the two sides reviewed the situation in the Middle East region and the ongoing peace efforts.

The foreign minister also said that the Jordanian and Austrian sides reviewed the consequences of the Gulf conflict and its impact on Jordan, which has received a flood of refugees.

In addition, the minister noted, Jordan and Austria discussed means to promote bilateral relations.

Jordan conveyed to the Austrian government its deep appreciation of its "help to the Kingdom during the Gulf crisis and particularly the facilities it offered to house Royal Jordanian (RJ) planes during that crisis."

Israel meanwhile reacted angrily to Egyptian criticism of Sharon's plan.

"We are very sorry about this attack. It does not contribute to the atmosphere of peace... we don't think settlements are an obstacle to promoting the peace process," Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's bureau chief Yossi Ahimier said.

"The Arab Republic of Egypt sees that it is time for the Israeli government to... curb Israeli circles whose positions show they are deliberately hindering the peace process..." a spokesman for the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

The United States, which is trying to arrange peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours, has said repeatedly that settlements hinder peace efforts.

## Sudanese rebels report they have replaced leader Garang

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese rebels said Friday they had deposed their leader John Garang after accusing him of waging a "region of terror."

"He oppressed, humiliated and degraded the people and turned a popular struggle into war-lordism and a region of terror," a statement from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said.

The statement, released in Nairobi, carried the signatures of three members of the SPLA high command.

There was no independent confirmation on the removal of Col. Garang, who from its inception in 1983 led the SPLA in fighting what the rebels saw as domination by the north over the south.

The statement said immediate

steps would be taken to hold a convention to reorganise the SPLA and elect a new leadership.

The statement promised the release of a large number of people detained by Col. Garang, a commitment to the eight-year civil war.

The three-page document was signed by SPLA commanders Riek Mashaar Teny-Dhurgon, Lam Akol and Gordon Koang Chol. Dated Aug. 28, it had apparently been written in rebel-held southern Sudan.

SPLA guerrillas were expelled from bases in Ethiopia after the overthrow of dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam in May and diplomats said the loss of support from Addis Ababa threw the SPLA into turmoil and damaged the

morale of its supporters.

"The movement is split. Events in Ethiopia have deepened rifts between those who want a secular Sudan and those who see an independent southern Sudan as the only response to what's happening in the north," said one Western envoy.

Col. Garang's apparent removal coincides with an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) peace initiative to bring the SPLA and the Khartoum government together for peace talks within the next few weeks.

Diplomats in Khartoum said the government was taking advantage of the SPLA's disarray by offering money to rebel defectors. Many of them were apparently driven to abandon the SPLA by hunger.

## Germany, allies to renegotiate troop agreements

BONN (AP) — Germany wants a greater say in the actions of U.S., British and other North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) troops on its soil and has called a special meeting to renegotiate decades-old NATO military pacts, the foreign ministry said Friday.

The talks, set for Sept. 5-6 in Bonn, comes as Germany begins to exert more international influence than at any time since the end of World War II.

About 372,000 foreign NATO troops — most of them American — were stationed in western Germany at the start of the year. Their numbers are being reduced as NATO nations cut back on their defence budgets.

France, Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium and Canada also have troops on German soil and

will participate in the negotiations, the ministry said.

In Washington, U.S. Defence Department spokesman Ken Satterfield said this will be a review of the status of forces agreement that governs the activities (such as low-level flying, troop manoeuvres) of the foreign forces in Germany.

The talks will not involve the Soviet Union, which has about 270,000 troops in former East Germany that are to be withdrawn by 1994 under bilateral treaties.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the troop-stationing agreements need to be "reexamined in view of the attainment of German Unity and of (Germany's) full sovereignty."

He said it will not be a "one-time negotiation. Long-term

negotiations are completely possible."

The talks will examine Bonn's "voice in the movement and actions of troops in Germany — low-level flights, manoeuvres, and so forth," he said.

"In view of the negotiations, I'd rather not go into details," he added.

For more than four decades NATO tanks have rumbled across German farmland and its airplanes across German skies, at times testing the patience of the populace.

Conditions for the stationing of the NATO troops are set out in agreements that went into effect in the late 1950s. Those agreements put an end to Germany's status as an occupied country.

The U.S. embassy in Bonn said

in a statement about the upcoming talks: "Prior to German unification last year, Germany and the six nations which have forces stationed in Germany noted that any party" to the accords "have the right to request a review."

The statement added, "Germany has made such a request" and the meeting has been set.

U.S. officials would not elaborate.

Germany took a relatively low international profile after unity last Oct. 3, at least partly because of international criticism of its refusal to send troops to the Gulf during the Iraq-Kuwait crisis.

In the past couple of weeks, however, the German government has been exerting more influence in relations with the Soviet Union, in the Yugoslav crisis, and other areas.



## Aoun begins exile in France after secret journey

MARSEILLE, France (AP) — Renegade Lebanese General Michel Aoun began the life of an exile Friday in a heavily guarded sea-front villa following a journey from Beirut elaborately camouflaged to protect him.

Gen. Aoun, 55, rode through the gates of the sumptuous Gaby-Deslys villa in a police-escorted motorcade to be reunited with his wife and three daughters Friday morning, witnesses said.

The arrival concluded two days of reports that he had variously left Beirut in an inflatable raft, a submarine, a French navy warship and an executive jet.

Gen. Aoun's odyssey from the French embassy in Beirut to the Mediterranean villa was organized by French intelligence with what appeared to be a heavy dose of disinformation.

"Due to security considerations, a certain discretion was put into effect" for Gen. Aoun's departure, a foreign ministry spokesman said Friday.

Even when confirming that Gen. Aoun had safely arrived in France, the spokesman refused to say where he was or would settle.

Gen. Aoun was accompanied by Issam Abu Jabra, a bodyguard, French authorities confirmed.

Reporters and photographers had stalked the villa, located about 100 metres from the U.S. embassy, since Thursday evening, when Gen. Aoun's family arrived.

Gen. Aoun made no public statement and was not seen after the gates to the villa closed behind his motorcade.

The general and his aides sought shelter in the embassy Oct. 13 after Lebanese President

Elias Hrawi's troops, backed by the Syrian army, smashed Gen. Aoun's 11-month mutiny in the Christian heartland north and northeast of Beirut.

They received political asylum, but Mr. Hrawi's government refused to let them leave Lebanon, demanding Gen. Aoun be turned over to face charges of stealing up to \$125 million of state funds.

France refused. Months of negotiations resulted in Mr. Hrawi's government signing a general amnesty Monday for civil war crimes, allowing the president to decree a special pardon for Gen. Aoun.

It stipulates that Gen. Aoun and his aides stay abroad for at least five years without getting involved in political activity against the Lebanese government. If they violate the accord, they lose their immunity and can be prosecuted by Lebanese authorities.

Word circulated Wednesday that Gen. Aoun would leave Lebanon in an executive jet that brought three French officials to Beirut to negotiate final details of his departure.

But journalists staking out the embassy before dawn Thursday saw four convoys of nearly identical armoured-plated limousines escorted by armoured personnel carriers speed out the rear gate in different directions.

Two headed to the airport, and two more sped towards the docks at Dbayeh. Lebanese officials said later that three of the convoys were decoys. One carried Gen. Aoun and his assistants to the docks, they said.

Reports conflicted from then on. The Lebanese officials stated that Gen. Aoun had left aboard a

French warship for Larnaca, Cyprus, where an executive jet would fly them to France.

But French newspapers Friday cited Lebanese security sources as saying that Gen. Aoun and aides left in an inflatable raft guarded by frogmen, and were taken aboard a submarine for the trip to Cyprus.

In Cyprus, a hide-and-seek game ensued with the French Falcon jet that took off from Beirut airport and flew to Larnaca early Thursday afternoon.

Reporters watched the jet for eight hours as it sat on the tarmac. It was refuelled and took off about Thursday evening. No one was seen boarding it and airport sources said they did not believe Gen. Aoun was aboard.

Rumours meanwhile circulated Thursday afternoon that Gen. Aoun had somehow arrived in France in a different way. Tight-lipped foreign ministry officials refused to confirm or deny any of them.

Almost 24 hours after the motorcades left the French embassy in Beirut, the foreign ministry in Paris put out its first official word on Gen. Aoun: That he was en route to France.

Back in Cyprus, government spokesman Alex Fantis said Gen. Aoun arrived from Lebanon at Larnaca shortly before sunrise at 6 a.m. Cypriot time (0300 GMT), about an hour before Paris issued its communique.

Gen. Aoun was driven directly to the airport and left for France aboard a special French Falcon jet, Mr. Fantis said. He gave no other details.

The end of Gen. Aoun's presence in the embassy marked an



Michel Aoun

immediate upwelling in Franco-Lebanese relations.

A foreign ministry communique said that Mr. Hrawi had invited Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to visit Lebanon in the near future, and that Mr. Dumas had accepted.

Gen. Aoun's mutiny at the head of 20,000 Christian troops marked one of the bloodiest periods of the 16-year Lebanese civil war, including shelling duels in Beirut that left nearly 1,000 civilians killed and over 2,700 wounded.

Gen. Aoun, a former commander of the Lebanese army, rebelled against the Nov. 24, 1989, election of Mr. Hrawi by a session of the Lebanese parliament.

He claimed that the election was prejudiced by Syrian influence. Syria maintains 40,000 troops in Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League mandate to end the country's civil war.

## U.N. envoy holds hostage talks in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati discussed efforts for the release of Middle East hostages with an aide of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Tehran Radio said Friday.

Mr. Velayati told Giandomenico Picco in Tehran Thursday that Iranian hostages missing in Lebanon since 1982 must be released and demanded solid information about them, the radio said.

"He also said that innocent Muslims imprisoned by Israel should be freed so that the hostage release process could continue," it added.

Tehran has pressed this line since pro-Iranian groups released two Western hostages — Briton John McCarthy and American Edward Tracy — in Lebanon earlier this month and asked Mr. Perez de Cuellar to arrange what they called a global hostage swap.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar left Geneva after three days of meetings about the hostages, saying he did not know if captives would be freed before his scheduled visit to Tehran on Sept. 10.

In Geneva, Mr. Picco briefed

the U.N. chief on his visit last week to Israel.

The Jewish state has ruled out a deal on nearly 400 Arab prisoners seized from Lebanon until it receives concrete information about seven of its servicemen missing there.

Israel's chief hostage negotiator Uri Lubrani said last Thursday that Israel had firm evidence that one of the seven, Ron Arad, was alive and being held by Iranians.

But Iran's U.N. Ambassador Kamal Kharrazi said after talks with Mr. Perez de Cuellar in Geneva Tuesday that the question of the missing Israelis was strictly between the Jewish state and their Lebanese captors.

"The only thing that we can do to help the secretary-general is to encourage the Lebanese group to be more flexible and to release the hostages," Mr. Kharrazi said.

Five Americans, two Britons, two Germans and an Italian are missing and believed held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

The four missing Iranians, including Chahd d'Affaires Mohsen Mousavi, were last seen at a

militia checkpoint north of Beirut in July 1982.

Tehran says they are alive. Diplomats and security sources in Beirut say they were killed shortly after they were seized by the Lebanese Forces militia.

Tehran Radio said Mr. Picco also discussed implementation of Security Council resolution 598 for a final settlement of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and a U.N. proposal to end Afghanistan's 12-year civil war.

Iran says Mr. Perez de Cuellar's visit, his third to Tehran since 1985, would centre on Iran-Iraq issues.

Iranian officials have resurrected the issue of the missing Iranians in recent weeks.

But it is not clear if word about their fate is a precondition for the release of the hostages, or whether it is simply designed to placate hardline opponents of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists.

Anti-Western radicals in Tehran charge that Mr. Rafsanjani, who is seeking to end the hostage crisis and improve rela-

tions with the West, has helped free Western captives but got nothing in return.

Mr. Rafsanjani, whose main priority is to revive Iran's ailing economy, considers the hostages an impediment to better ties with the West and block badly needed industrial investment and technology.

Iranian officials have said no Western hostages are expected to be freed unless the kidnappers' main demand — the release of Arabs and Shiite Muslim cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid — is met.

Hizbollah leader Sheikh Abbas Musavi said in Tehran Thursday that "the hostages issue would come to its end once and for all" if Israel released its Arab prisoners.

Hizbollah has said it holds two of the Israelis, but has refused to provide further information until some of the Arab prisoners are freed.

Amal, Hizbollah's ideological rival in Lebanon, has said it had the bodies of two Israeli soldiers, but has refused to provide verification.

## Israeli army chief seeks to salvage funds

TEL AVIV (AP) — Ehud Barak's military "exploits" have included dressing up as a woman to kill Palestinian guerrilla leaders, and as an aircraft mechanic to storm a hijacked airliner.

Now, as military chief of staff, the lieutenant general faces what could be his toughest battle yet: To squeeze funds for the army out of a finance ministry preoccupied with an avalanche of Soviet immigrants.

The ministry, which presents Israel's 1992 budget to the cabinet next week, wants to cut one billion shekels, or \$430 million, in army spending. It threatens to increase taxes if the cut is not approved.

Gen. Barak wants an extra one billion shekels a year for a five-year period to meet "not our full needs, but minimal needs ... so that you, citizens of Israel, will be able to sleep quietly."

However, the public perceives

no immediate war threat. Gen. Barak maintains that is precisely why now is the time to prepare for the future.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai disagrees.

"The army is asking for the maximum security for a forecast of the maximum danger; more simply, a belt and suspenders." The battle heated up Wednesday when Israel TV gave Gen. Barak 30 minutes to air his arguments, despite the government's pleas to tone down the debate.

Mr. Mordechai retaliated Thursday by calling in a string of reporters and editors to hear his side.

Gen. Barak, 49, took office in April basking in approval. He was remembered as a brilliant, unorthodox fighter.

In 1972 his squad stormed a hijacked Sabena airliner near Tel Aviv, rescuing 97 hostages. A year later came the bloody, audacious raid on Palestinian guerrilla leaders in Beirut.

As chief of staff, he immediately indicated that he planned big changes. Reports emerged that he was determined to "ax everything that doesn't shoot," even the revered veterans' corps and popular army radio station.

There was talk of sweeping staff cuts and an all-out assault on the military bureaucracy.

On Wednesday night he confirmed some of these plans as part of an effort to cut spending by about \$100 million a year.

Gen. Barak said he would lay off 4,000 career soldiers and civilians working for the 174,000-strong regular army, and undertake "tremendous cutbacks in personnel, days of reserve service, scope of forces and operations."

"The cuts are very painful," he said.

At the core of his thinking is the "multi-year programme," a sweeping reform plan based on

an assessment of the "threats" Israel could face in the 21st century — advanced weaponry, ballistic missiles and chemical or other non-conventional weapons.

Gen. Barak said that during the Gulf war, Iraq's Scud barges on Tel Aviv carried the Arabs across a "psychological barrier." Now, he said, Arab states want to buy or develop improved ballistic missiles.

The possibility of a Middle East peace conference does not change the picture. In Gen. Barak's mind, it is Israel's strength that is forcing the Arabs to negotiate, and that will underpin whatever peace settlement is reached.

Some of the planned military cuts, according to Israeli Radio, will lead to a reduction in military operations in troublesome areas — southern Lebanon, the occupied territories and the demarcation lines.

## Ozal party primes economy with cash ahead of polls

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's ruling Motherland Party is pouring cash into the economy and wooing pop stars to improve its chances in a general election set for Oct. 20.

Since Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz took over the Motherland leadership in June, the government has given generous pay rises to state employees and raised prices paid to farmers.

This week it raised allowances paid to the security forces, promised free textbooks to some school children, increased student grants and waived some hospital charges.

Exporters have won new incentives. Several price and tax increases have been postponed until next year.

"From now on economic policies will be influenced by the government's programme to win the elections and little else," one Turkish banker commented.

Bankers say they expect interest rates to rise as the treasury draws on domestic borrowing to fund the extra spending, likely to send annual inflation over 70 per cent by year-end.

Motherland has 275 seats in the 450-seat parliament but seems unlikely to repeat its 1987 election success when it was led by then-Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, now president.

Inflation and gaping budget deficits have dented the party's economic achievements, while Mr. Ozal has fuelled resentment by exercising power from the supposedly impartial presidency.

Mr. Yilmaz has shown some independence from Mr. Ozal and lately incurred his wrath for gloomily suggesting that Motherland might be willing to enter a coalition if it fails to win at the polls.

Top challengers are the conservative True Path Party (DYP) of former Prime Minister Suley-



Turgut Ozal

man Demirel and the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP) led by Erdal Inonu, a physics professor whose father was a hero of Turkey's independence war.

Both opposition party leaders are sworn enemies of Mr. Ozal, which may complicate Motherland's chances of sharing power.

The party has hired a French public relations firm to help project an image of Mr. Yilmaz as youthful, liberal and dynamic.

Motherland has persuaded pop idol Ibrahim Tatlis, who is of Kurdish origin, to run for election, probably in his native Sanliurfa in the troubled, Kurdish-populated southeast.

But votes in a region torn by a bloody, seven-year-old struggle between Turkish forces and separatist Kurdish guerrillas seem unlikely to go to any of the main parties.

The supreme electoral board this week upheld a decision to bar one of the strongest parties in the area, the People's Labour Party (HEP), for failing to meet electoral rules.

Leaders of the HEP, founded by Kurdish deputies expelled from the SHP, say the decision could further radicalise Kurds who already feel alienated from the central government.

## Afghan rebels ready for negotiations with Soviets

NICOSIA (R) — Afghan guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government say they are ready for talks with Moscow.

They hope the collapse of a coup by Soviet hardliners will speed up the search for peace in Afghanistan after 12 years of civil war.

A statement issued Thursday at the end of two days of talks between Iranian and Pakistani officials and Afghan rebel leaders in Tehran, backed U.N. proposals for a ceasefire and an interim government to hold elections in Afghanistan.

"The statement also declared the Mujahedeen's readiness to enter into 'basic negotiations' with Moscow, hoping that recent developments in the Soviet Union would facilitate a quick solution to the 12-year old Afghan issue," the Iranian news agency IRNA said.

"The biggest success of the recent events in the Soviet Union is the dismissal of those involved in the Soviet army's invasion of Afghanistan," IRNA quoted Burhanuddin Rabbani, a Pakistan-based Mujahedeen leader, as saying.

Tehran Radio said Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati discussed the results of the meeting later Thursday with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's representative on Afghanistan, Giandomenico Picco.

In Kabul, Afghan President Najibullah said he expected Moscow to maintain vital supplies of food and weapons despite the purge of hardliners after last week's failed coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Gorbachev ended the Soviet army's 10-year intervention in Afghanistan in 1989, but the Mujahedeen, divided on reli-

gious, tribal and ideological lines, failed to topple Mr. Najibullah.

The Tehran meetings were boycotted by three of the seven Mujahedeen groups based in Pakistan, but leaders of an Iran-backed party attended.

Iran's Velayati and Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Secretary-General Akram Zaki represented the two countries which have given sanctuary to five million Afghan refugees.

### Rebel leader assassinated

An Afghan rebel leader was killed by a gunman Friday after being driven from his stronghold by rival guerrillas and forced to flee to Pakistan last week.

Maulvi Jamilur Rehman was shot by a gunman at his headquarters in the Pakistani town of Bajaur, just over the Afghan border, an official of his Jamaat-i-Dawa group said.

The gunman was then shot and killed by Mr. Rehman's followers.

The group had lost last week's battle for the eastern Afghan province of Kunar to the radical, Hezbi-Islami guerrillas of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Hezbi captured the Kunar capital Asadabad last Monday after three days of fighting in which scores of people were killed. Mr. Rehman was unpopular with most guerrilla groups because he followed Islam's Wahabi sect which is dominant in Saudi Arabia.

He fell out with Mr. Hekmatyar when they backed different sides in the Gulf war. Relations degenerated into open war for the province bordering Pakistan.

## Kuwait will allow Egyptians back to wind up their affairs

CAIRO (R) — Kuwait will grant Egyptians who worked in the emirate before it was invaded temporary visas to collect back-pay and wind up their affairs, a Kuwaiti embassy official said Friday.

"The details are under study, but Kuwait has agreed in principle," Salah Mohammad Al-Buain, consul at the Kuwaiti embassy in Cairo, told Reuters.

"We hope a working plan will be completed within a week," he added.

About 185,000 Egyptians worked in Kuwait before the Gulf crisis, remitting more than half a billion dollars a year according to official estimates. Most fled the

Iraqi army.

About 70,000 have returned to work in Kuwait since the end of the Gulf war. Kuwait said earlier this month that most teachers in its schools were now Egyptians.

Mr. Buain said a joint Kuwaiti-Egyptian committee will discuss ways of guaranteeing that the Egyptians, many of whom are now unemployed, would not stay in Kuwait after receiving back pay, end of service entitlements and any compensation due for property destroyed during the occupation.

The visas, valid for between one and three months, would be given only to those with legitimate claims, he said.

## Kurdish rebels kill policeman

ANKARA (R) — Kurdish rebels fired on a police car in eastern Turkey overnight, killing one policeman and slightly wounding another, police said Friday.

They said three civilian passers-by were also wounded in the attack in the town of Tatvan. The rebels, presumed to belong to the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), escaped and security forces began hunting for them.

More than 3,300 people have been killed since the PKK began a violent independence campaign in the southeast in 1984.

In the Hague, about 50 ethnic Kurds staged a sit-in Thursday at the World Court, seeking condemnation of the Turkish government's repression of the Kurdish minority.

A court official said the de-

monstrators had demanded to speak to court functionaries but had been told that the World Court is only open to claims brought by sovereign nations.

There were no reports that the protesters, who entered the building as tourists, carried any weapons. Their occupation of the building's Japanese room was peaceful as the incident stretched into Thursday evening.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the group refused to leave the room which houses the administrative section of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

There have been several Kurdish sit-ins in the Netherlands in recent years, most of them occurring at businesses or offices connected with Turkey.

## Flat tyre caused air crash in Jeddah, company says

MONTREAL (AP) — A flat tyre caused the crash of a Nigerian Airlines jet in Saudi Arabia in July, according to the president of the Canadian company that owned the aircraft.

But a spokesman for the Transportation Safety Board of Canada, which is investigating the crash, cautioned that its inquiry is still in its early stages and that no conclusions have been drawn.

The July 11 crash at Jeddah International airport killed all 261 people on board. It was the 10th worst airline disaster.

The DC-8 was carrying 247 Nigerian pilgrims to Islamic holy sites in Saudi Arabia, plus 14 crew members, 12 of them Canadian.

In a progress report on the investigation released earlier this month, the board said that a tyre of the DC-8 went flat before it reached the takeoff runway.

Another tyre also went flat and caught fire. Flames spread throughout the aircraft, which crashed about one kilometre short of the runway.

The complete inquiry into the disaster will take one to three years. Safety board spokesman Harris said the board has not yet analysed the tyres, wheels and brakes from the aircraft.

"It is too early to make any conclusions about the case and contributing factors," Mr. Harris said in a telephone interview Thursday.

Robert Obadia, president of Montreal-based Nationalair, told a press conference Thursday that a government inquiry into the dis-

aster "is absolutely not on a trail that would lead to Nationalair responsibility."

Mr. Obadia said that in his meeting with board officials he found that the investigation has ruled out "any deficiency of the plane, the team (of pilots), Nationalair or Technair," the company's maintenance subsidiary. "It was purely a fortuitous accident."

"We are 100 per cent sure it started with an ordinary flat tyre, and that the tyre caused the fire. What has to be established is why it deflated," he said.

He said the wheels and brakes have "been cleared" by investigators as a cause of the crash.

A statement by Saudi Arabia's civil aviation authority in July said faulty tyres and landing gear played a role in the crash. The authority dismissed the possibility that overloading had caused the crash.

## Bush, Major end talks

(Continued from page 1) acted to correct "one small defect" in the American character — the country's infatuation with baseball — by presenting Mr. Bush with a cricket bat.

"Wait a minute, you can't escape, without a retaliatory gift here," Mr. Bush shot back and handed Mr. Major a baseball bat.

"May your life be safe without curvetballs and mine free of googlies," the U.S. leader said, referring to trick deliveries in baseball and cricket.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Le Chevalier de Labyrinthe
18:30	Thalassie
19:00	News in French
19:15	Carnet de Notes
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Kate and Alice
21:00	Encounter
21:30	Classical Music
22:00	News in English
22:30	Pequeño
PRAYER TIMES	
06:44	Fajr
06:55	(Sunrise) Duha
12:36	Dhuhr
16:12	Asr
19:57	Maghrib
20:28	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terraviva Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assiout International Church Tel. 685325	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 649922	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Amman	Min./Max. temp. 16 / 29
Aqaba	23 / 36
Deserts	15 / 34
Jordan Valley	22 / 37
Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 28, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 51 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
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## Jordan's decades-old refugee camps absorbing arrivals from Kuwait

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan's refugee camps, built to house Palestinians driven from their homes by the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars, are swelling again with a third Palestinian influx, this time from Kuwait.

The impoverished Kingdom has appealed for foreign aid to help absorb the latest 300,000 arrivals, who have increased Jordan's 3.2 million population by almost 10 per cent.

Although some returnees have brought wealth back to Jordan, many others are struggling to scrape by.

"All of us led some sort of a decent life and had a regular income in Kuwait," said Palestinian stonemason Hassan Hammoud outside his parent's home at the Baqa'a Refugee camp.

"Now, we have lost everything. We have become beggars," he said.

Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation expressed sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf crisis, angering Kuwait, which has laid off more than 100,000 civil servants, most of them Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

Mr. Hammoud, a father of seven, had lived in Kuwait since 1968, a year after the Arab-Israeli War forced him to leave his home in the West Bank town of Nablus for Jordan and then Kuwait.

In another part of the camp, 30 people from four families were crammed into a makeshift five-room house sharing one toilet and a tiny courtyard.

"My husband goes out job-hunting every day," said Aminah Abed Saleh, a mother of 10. "On



Increasingly, Palestinian returnees from the Gulf are settling in camps such as the Baqa'a Refugee Camp (above). Established after the 1967 Arab-

Israeli War, the Baqa'a camp is believed to be home to more than 120,000 people. (Fle Photo)

a good day, he comes back with three dinars (4.5 dollars)." In Kuwait, he earned \$1,000 a month as an office clerk.

The Baqa'a camp, home to at least 120,000 people, was established after the 1967 Middle East war.

Its new residents face problems similar to those reported by others in Jordan — rising unemployment and housing costs, increased poverty and stretched health and educational services.

But people in the camps — a powerful political symbol of the four-decade old Palestinian problem — face the further obstacle of being prevented from expanding their homes.

Each family in Baqa'a camp is allotted 100 square metres (yards) of land to build a home.

Jordan normally refuses requests to add more rooms because any expansion of the 13 camps meant to house Palestinians until they can return home

would imply they have become permanent.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which provides education, health and other services, says about a quarter of the 950,000 Palestinian refugees registered with it in Jordan still live in the camps.

"We all live on the hope of returning to our land," said Wa'el Harbi, 52. "If it is not me and my children, it will be their grandchildren."

## Queen calls for convention to address children's problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — A national convention for childhood is to be held before the end of the year and its purpose is to promote the national efforts for the protection and safety of children, according to an announcement made during a meeting chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor at Al Maawa Palace in Amman.

At the meeting, which was to prepare for the national convention, Queen Noor stressed the need for Jordanians to give attention to the children when decision makers plan for future development schemes. She also called for cooperation between private and public institutions in this regard.

The Queen called attention to the need for planners to take into consideration the recommendations and resolutions passed by the World Summit for Children, which was held in New York in September 1990 in the course of adopting a national plan of action for childhood in Jordan.

She said that such recommendations and resolutions could be used in a manner that would be most beneficial for children in Jordanian society.

The national convention for children would be an extension of the principles enshrined in the declaration and the plan of action from the World Summit for Children, according to the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), which is sponsoring the convention and the preparatory meetings. It said that the national convention was designed to provide a moral and legal framework for the provision of minimum guarantees of survival, protection and safety for the children.

Minister of Planning, Ziyad Fariz, who attended the meeting, said that Jordan was giving attention to the children in light of the summit's recommendations and is going ahead with plans to put most of these recommendations into practice.

Jordan is facing additional burdens with the return to the Kingdom of hundreds of thousands of expatriates from the Gulf countries, the minister said. He said the Kingdom was facing a 12 to 15 per cent increase in its population, which means a dramatic increase in the number of children that will need care.

The meeting was attended by representatives of concerned sectors, of governmental and non-governmental groups as well as a number of United Nations organisations operating in Jordan.

The participants called for the adoption of a unified national plan designed to promote children's status in the 1990s stressing the need for the national convention, which they said would help define the country's objectives through the end of the century.

## Libyan delegation to visit Jordan, will discuss expansion of economic ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Libyan government delegation is due in Amman in September to discuss means of increasing the volume of cooperation in labour, health, trade, and the prospect of employing Jordanians to work in Libya, according to an announcement by Prime Minister Taher Masri.

Speaking upon returning to Amman from a visit to Libya, where he attended a ceremony launching the Libyan Desert River Project, Mr. Masri said that the coming few weeks will witness an increase of closer cooperation between Tripoli and Amman.

Libya has been purchasing Jordanian goods and employing doctors and specialists in its hospitals and health centres. To promote bilateral cooperation, the prime minister has discussed with the Libyan government ways to promote economic and commercial links.

Mr. Masri, who delivered a message to the Libyan leader from His Majesty King Hussein



Taher Masri

said his presence in Libya for the ceremony as a representative of King Hussein allowed him to hold meetings with other Arab leaders to discuss Jordan's ties with their countries.

Libya appreciates the national role played by Jordan at all levels and realises the magnitude of the hardships the country is facing in the current stage, the prime

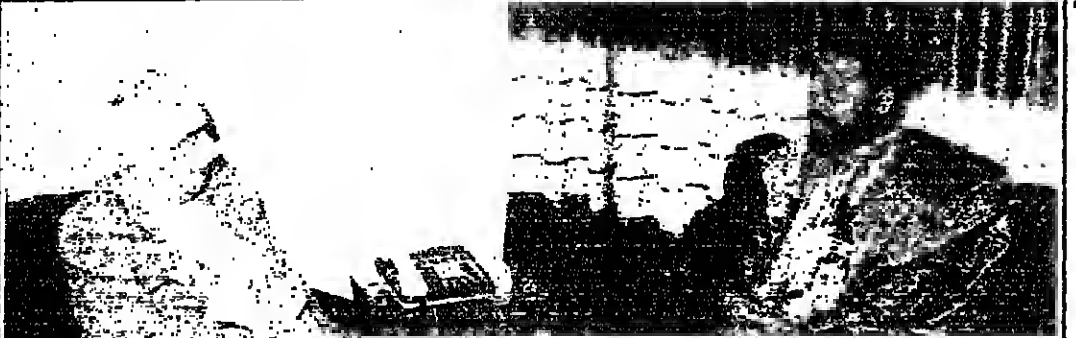
minister said.

Mr. Masri, who was accompanied by the ministers of Labour and Health on the visit, expressed the view that the coming months would witness further meetings among Arab leaders to discuss issues of common concern.

Last May, the head of a visiting Libyan delegation to Jordan, Dr. Mustafa Al Za'idi, said that the Libyan government had taken a decision to give priority in trade to Jordanian products in appreciation of the Kingdom's pan-Arab role and in a bid to support the country's national economy.

Dr. Za'idi said that Jordan's agricultural, pharmaceutical and industrial products are now on sale in Libya's markets and he expressed hope that cooperation in trade would continue and expand.

During its visit to Jordan in May, the Libyan delegation concluded contracts for the purchase of JD 3 million worth of garments and clothes from the Jordanian markets.



ISLAMIC RESEARCH — President of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Al Bayt Foundation) Dr. Naseruddin Al

Assad Thursday briefed the Senegalese president's envoy Sidi Al Amin Yamm, on the academy's activities and its

projects. Dr. Assad informed him that the academy was in the process of preparing an encyclopedia on Islamic civilisation, a comprehensive index for Arab and Islamic heritage, including manuscripts and analytical indices of Islamic

economy. The academy also holds specialised symposiums in cooperation with a number of academic institutions worldwide. Mr. Yamm voiced admiration of the efforts being made by the academy to advance Islamic heritage.

## Offer of exemption from military service for \$6,000 to be extended

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has decided to extend an offer of exemption from compulsory military service in lieu of a payment of \$6,000 to the treasury and is expected to announce the decision today, informed sources have said.

"The decision has been taken to extend the offer until the end of the year and an official announcement will be made Saturday," senior source said Thursday.

The treasury is believed to have collected close to JD 45 million in foreign currency from expatriates and sons of expatriates through the exemption arrangement, which went into force in August 1990 after Parliament endorsed a relevant law.

The law states: "Any Jordanian residing abroad but not a member of the Kingdom's diplomatic corps will be exempted from military service if he pays the treasury a lump-sum amount to be fixed by the Council of Minister."

The cabinet set the amount

at \$6,000 per applicant and over 9,000 potential conscripts have taken advantage of the offer since then, according to sources. Those resident in Jordan are eligible if they obtain employment contracts abroad.

"The number of applicants so far has exceeded our expectations and the amount collected from them have contributed to making up the budget deficit," said a senior official.

No official figures are available yet on the actual figures and concerned ministry and other officials declined to comment.

Normal exemptions from the two-year mandatory service are extended to the chronically ill and only son in the family. Everyone male, regardless of the period of absence from the country has to serve the term before reaching the age of 37.

Government estimates, drawn up in June 1990, said that about 40,000 Jordanians could seek exemption under the offer. Independent sources put the figure closer to 60,000.

Most of those who have availed themselves of the exemption in lieu of payment are

believed to be expatriates and sons of expatriates living in the Gulf states.

"Quite a few of them are resident in Europe and Latin America but the majority of applications came from the Gulf states, particularly Kuwait," according to one of the sources.

The exemption process has been handled through Jordanian diplomatic missions abroad for expatriates and the Armed Forces and Finance Ministry in Amman for residents with employment contracts abroad.

The number of Jordanian nationals living outside the country has shrunk to 700,000 after the return of 300,000, mostly from Kuwait, in the wake of the Gulf crisis and a de facto expulsion policy adopted by post-war Kuwait.

It is unclear how many of the expatriates who returned home will seek exemption, particularly since they are now in the country and many of them experienced heavy financial losses as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

## Lack of organised planning hurting Jordanian industry, economist says

AMMAN (J.T.) — A noted Jordanian economist has criticised the heavy but haphazard rush towards investment in industry and said that several problems continue to hamper production and marketing of products due to lack of proper planning.

Many investors have invested heavily in machines without providing proper maintenance to them and without making available enough skilled labour for such maintenance, said Dr. Jawad Al Anani.

He said that most industries in Jordan operate at 50 per cent to 60 per cent capacity and their production run at a low level because they have brought more machines than is needed and are encountering difficulties in marketing products abroad.

In a statement published by the Al Intaj Magazine, Dr. Anani said that during the Gulf crisis industrial production dropped by at least 80 per cent, largely due to the closure of the Iraqi and Gulf markets to Jordanian products.

Now that the Gulf crisis is nearing an end, industrial businesses are still struggling to overcome the present difficulties and many constraints still hamper



Jawad Al Anani

their advance, Dr. Anani said.

He called on the concerned authorities to provide training to people needed to work in industrial concerns, to facilitate the purchase of raw materials and to tackle problems related to customs complications in order to help Jordanian industry.

Referring to joint Jordanian-Arab industrial ventures, Dr. Anani said that such programmes are hampered by attitudes of governments involved in the ven-

tures. According to Dr. Anani, marketing of Arab countries' products still poses immense difficulties in other Arab countries, which prefer foreign manufactured goods.

In addition, agents and dealers of foreign industrial products in Arab countries have not been given incentives to switch to Arab products instead of the foreign commodities, Dr. Anani said. He added that many Arab countries which are linked to others by trade agreements prefer not to trade with one another because they do not wish to offer exemptions from customs duty to imports from Arab countries in implementation of these agreements. Instead, they prefer to import from foreign countries certain types of goods for which customs duty is paid to the treasury, he said.

Dr. Anani said that Jordan now has more than 500 medium-sized industrial projects and, generally, their products, which are sold locally and in some Arab and foreign countries, now account for nearly 25 per cent of the gross national product (GNP) compared to nine per cent 30 years ago.

## Heads of Arab Red Crescent Societies issue appeal to help Iraqi children

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society, Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura Thursday returned home from Damascus where he took part in the 21st Conference for Arab Heads of Red Crescent Societies.

In an arrival statement, Dr. Abu Qoura said participants issued a statement calling on the international community to move quickly to alleviate the suffering of Iraqi children caused by the shortage of food and medical supplies as well as the lack of water purification equipment.

Rajab Takriti, president of the Iraqi Medical Association, earlier this week said that there was an increase in deaths among Iraqi children because of the lack of medicine.

According to him, there was an increase in deaths caused by typhoid, malaria fever, gastrointestinal infection, dysentery and malaria. The destruction of hospitals and medical centres during the Gulf war has seriously

affected Iraqi doctors' ability to deal with the spreading diseases, Dr. Takriti had said. The Allied economic embargo on Iraq bars the arrival into the country of basic food supplies, drugs, medical supplies and equipment.

The conference discussed means of enhancing cooperation and coordination among all Arab Red Crescent Societies during the 26th International Conference, which will be held in the Hungarian capital of Budapest in November.

Taking part in the three day conference were delegations representing Arab Red Crescent Societies, in addition to representatives of 25 international organisations, Red Cross committees and the International League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Red Crescent delegation arrived in Amman en route to their country after taking part in Damascus conference.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Prophet's birthday to be marked

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, along with other Arab and Muslim countries, will mark Prophet Mohammad's birthday, which falls Friday Sept. 20. In preparation for marking this anniversary, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Rayef Nijem will chair a meeting for the national committee in charge of celebrating the Prophet's birthday to draw up the celebration's programme.

### Jordan, Morocco discuss economic ties

CASABLANCA (Petra) — Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary General Ibrahim Badran met Thursday with the Moroccan Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Al Azmani and discussed with him bilateral relations in the commercial field. Both officials agreed to develop the economic and commercial cooperation agreement, already concluded between both countries, to include new commodities. The two officials discussed issues pertaining to the facilitation of movement of businessmen from both countries. The meeting was attended by the Jordanian ambassador to Morocco, members of the Board of Directors of the Amman Chamber of Industry and Jordanian businessmen taking part in the second Jordanian exhibition.

### JD 140,000 distributed to needy families

AMMAN (Petra) — Ahmad Yassin, director general of the Alms Fund, has said that the fund distributed JD 140,000 to needy families in Jordan so far this month. Mr. Yassin added that the fund will continue to aid needy returnees

### Hadid complains about policy

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament member Nayef Al Hadid called on the Ministry of Agriculture to import Bulgarian meat and stop the exportation of Jordanian livestock. In a memorandum he sent to the agriculture minister, he said that Jordanian merchants import livestock and then export it to neighbouring Arab countries.

### Lower House to discuss draft law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday holds a meeting under its chairman, Abdul Latif Arabiyat, to discuss the Upper House of Parliament's letter turning down the Senate's waiver of responsibility as a result of ending martial law. The House will refer the Senate's reply to the Legal Committee for debate. The House will also discuss the Revised Law No. 11 on the Higher Court of Justice.

**FIT RECRUITS** — Director of the Royal Police Academy Col. Fawaz Qabinn Thursday attended the graduation of police officers who have completed a physical fitness course. Col. Qabinn said that the Public Security Department (PSD)

was keen on holding such training courses to develop the skills and talents of public security personnel. He thanked the trainers and graduates for the effort they made during training and wished them every success in discharging their duties.

The four-week course included sports and methods of dealing with playground injuries. At the end of the ceremony, Col. Qabinn presented certificates to the graduate officers.

## Ministry of Education agrees to equalise masters degree from banking institute

AMMAN (Petra) — Mustafa Hudeib, dean of the Arab Institute for Banking Studies, said Friday that the Ministry of Education has agreed to equalise the masters degree awarded by the Amman-based institute.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Hudeib said that the institute has agreed to equalise the masters degree followed consideration by the Higher Committee for the Equivalence of Certificates, of the masters degree awarded by the insti-

tute in terms of disciplines, credit hours, availability of library, size of teaching staff and their qualifications and the graduation research.

Dr. Hudeib pointed out that the institute has recently appointed a number of doctorate degree holders to work for the institute, thus meeting one of the major conditions for authorising the institute to award the masters degree.

He also said that the institute will accept a limited number of

students from outside the financial and banking sector to work towards obtaining their masters degree, in accordance with a decision taken by the institute's Board of Trustees.

The institute was established in 1989 with Amman as its base in accordance with decisions of the Arab Banks Association and Arab League. The institute, an affiliate regional arm of the ABA, is designed to supply the banking and financial sectors with well-trained banking staff.



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Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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## Problem beyond border

THE issue of the return of our expatriates from the Gulf region is formidable as much as it is replete with both challenges and problems. The first order of business was of course to quantify the size of demographic change created by the wave of Jordanian and Palestinian returnees from Kuwait and other Arab Gulf states in the aftermath of the Gulf war. Obviously there is no effective and meaningful way to deal with the issue without establishing a database on the people who were coerced and forced to flee their homes by certain shortsighted elements in the Gulf. For this purpose, a survey was conducted recently by the National Centre for Educational Research and Development at the request of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The survey substantiated certain fears especially that unemployment and housing top the list of the major problems faced by the returnees. Yet this valuable study failed to measure the full extent of the problem because, as the president of the centre that conducted the study confirmed recently, a number of difficulties were encountered in the process. These difficulties ranged from the inability to locate accurately the whereabouts of the expatriates (some of whom have either left the country for the West Bank or to foreign countries) to overdependence on counting the children of these people who have actually registered and enrolled in Jordan's public or private schools as a means to project the number of the returnees. In other words, as valuable as the data gathered is, it is admittedly incomplete and not exactly up-to-date. Of course such difficulties may have been avoided had our authorities maintained a closer watch over the number of the expatriates at the various points of entry as and when they came in instead of waiting till many of them settled or left without a trace.

Still, even without the benefit of a complete and updated data base, it is already established that the expatriates have strained the economy of the country in some ways at least and added new pressures on the public and private services including schools, transportation, hospitals and above all its water resources and other utilities. The sudden influx of more than 300,000 people, constituting about more than 10 per cent of the total population, clearly poses problems and bottlenecks in the entire system of a country already overburdened and lacking in natural resources. Clearly national and international assistance is urgently needed to help Jordan meet the new challenge created by the exodus of so many people from the Gulf region, where they had established their homes and earned their living, over such a short period of time.

On the other hand, however, many of the expatriates brought back with them not only their savings but also their skills and talents. There are already signs that the Jordanian economy has experienced a modest boom in certain sectors, such as housing for example. Construction in the Kingdom has always been an important sector of the economy and its reactivation has indeed generated many employment opportunities across the board. It is too early to gauge whether Jordan's industrial base will likewise experience a boost as a result of the thousands of the newcomers. On balance, though, the country has to endure a difficult time of readjustment both economically and socially. This is therefore a time to test whether both national and international efforts can interact to find a solution to a problem that is not totally of our own making. In fact, when Jordan kept warning against the demographic changes that would result from starting a war in the Gulf, it was not talking from a vacuum. Now, after the fact, words of sympathy are not enough to help us cope with what we knew would happen if our warnings went unheeded.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Friday said that Israel is trying to undermine the peace process while the world is busily watching the developments in the Soviet Union. The Israeli danger in this respect comes from cabinet minister Ariel Sharon who has recently advocated the idea of linking Jerusalem with the Jewish settlements in the West Bank, the paper noted. It said that such a move is bound to change the character of the holy city of Jerusalem and gradually help evict the remaining Arab inhabitants from the city. Mr. Sharon's plan, the paper added, is bound to place the Arabs and the world community at large face to face with new realities that cannot be tackled at the coming peace conference. Of course Israel's cabinet ministers are encouraged by the United States which is providing the funds for these settlements and the military power to enable Israel to consolidate its occupation of Arab lands, the paper said. The developments in the Soviet Union should by no means detract the Arabs from serious action and joint efforts to abort Israel's plots, the paper warned. It is, therefore, important for the Arabs to coordinate their future steps along the path leading to the peace conference, it added. The paper said that King Hussein, who is spearheading meaningful efforts in this respect, is now touring European countries to advocate the cause of just and honourable peace. His talks with the British foreign secretary and the Austrian president, the paper said, were serious contributions towards ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and re-establishing peace.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the continued harassment of Aqaba-bound vessels laden with goods imported for the Jordanian market. Salameh Ekour said that the American navy, which is turning away the ships and subjecting them to inspection, is committing flagrant aggression on Jordan, an attitude which has not received proper response on the part of the Jordanian government. It is not enough to bear the government or to read in the press statements condemning Washington's actions against Jordan, but legal steps should be taken to ensure the basic rights of the Jordanian people, the writer asserted.

## Kremlin collapse brings fears of chaos, instability

By Bryan Brunley  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The shattering of Kremlin authority has revived fears of ethnic conflict, border disputes, nuclear arms in the hands of fanatics and the possible emergence of Boris N. Yeltsin as a hully at the helm of Russia.

"Everything that has been created for centuries by our ancestors, by our hands, is collapsing," said reformist lawmaker Oleg Rymyantsev in the Supreme Soviet legislature on Tuesday.

The fear is that the ethnic and border disputes that have flared during six years of change under Mikhail S. Gorbachev will burst into a civil war and, in the worst case, that factions might gain control of nuclear arms.

Many ethnic groups also fear losing old freedoms to a resurgent Russia under its president,

Yeltsin, who has expanded his authority after leading the resistance to last week's botched three-day coup.

Mr. Gorbachev sought to ally those fears. And Mr. Gorbachev, Mr. Yeltsin and other leaders struggled to patch together a new Soviet Union as a confederation of neighbours with strong economic ties and—for those who wish—a political and defence alliance.

"Maybe the most tragic result of the coup is that those three days have given a boost, and a powerful boost, to centrifugal tendencies. A real threat of a breakup of the union has appeared," Mr. Gorbachev said in an impassioned appeal to the legislature.

The republics continued their stampede out of the Soviet Union, as Moldova became the

seventh republic to declare outright independence.

Speakers from Armenia told parliament they worried about new violence in the disputed border area with Azerbaijan. In recent years, territorial disputes also led to ethnic bloodshed in Georgia, Moldova and along the border between Uzbekistan and Kirgizia.

With central authority prostrate, and the armed forces possibly reluctant to intervene, fighting could worsen in hot spots around the country.

Even the republic leaders working most closely with Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Yeltsin voiced concern over some of the sweeping decrees and puzzling statements from the Russian Federation government.

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who huddled with Mr. Gorbachev and Mr.

Yeltsin Tuesday morning, complained about a statement by Mr. Yeltsin's press secretary that Russia reserved the right to review its borders with those republics that decide to leave the Soviet Union.

Nazarbayev, whose republic shares a long border with Russia and has more Russians than Kazakhs among its population, was quoted by the independent Interfax news agency as warning of trouble if Russia "raises the question of revising its borders."

The rapid-fire decrees that Mr. Yeltsin issued to assert control after the coup raised concern in the West that "Yeltsin may be oversteering his hand," said Thane Gustafson, a Sovietologist at Georgetown University in Washington. "It is the Yeltsin that we always feared was there, the two-faced sort."

"Because he is ruling by de-

ree, we may be seeing the beginning of the emergence of a new form of totalitarian rule," Mr. Gustafson said in a telephone interview.

Mr. Gorbachev rejected suggestions that Mr. Yeltsin was grabbing for power or land.

"You must not think, as someone said here, that the concept of a Russian empire is being revived, that Russian leadership has ousted the president of the country, that it is not thinking about republics," said Mr. Gorbachev, an ethnic Russian who has lived his entire life in the Russian Federation.

"The Russians will, I am convinced, play a consolidating role, a unifying role, and there need be no suspicions of them," he said.

Russians themselves worried that the second most populous republic, the Ukraine, might use a clause in its independence de-

claration to seize control of nuclear weapons on its territory. "We should remember that we live in a country that is full of nuclear warheads. And many nuclear weapons are in the Ukraine," said Anatoly Sobchak, the reformist mayor of the northern Russian city of Leningrad.

"Claims by different republics that part of the army or its weapons should be given over to their disposal are not acceptable," he said.

Yuri Shcherbak of the Ukraine rose immediately to assure lawmakers that his republic was to be "nuclear-free," and cautioned against making "some very sharp statements without knowing all the facts."

But feuds seem more common than facts in the nation, which may be sliding toward chaos and violence.

## Monuments to the past are falling

By Wendy Sloane  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Less than a week after a failed coup, monuments to Communist leaders have been toppled all over the country. But reformers still are wary of removing Lenin from his temperature-controlled granite mausoleum.

Other comrades have fallen. A monument to Security Police Chief Felix Dzerzhinsky was toppled outside KGB headquarters on Thursday. Yakov Sverdlov, one of Lenin's closest colleagues, and Bolshevik leader Mikhail Kalinin were both pulled down near the Kremlin on Thursday.

Is Vladimir Ilyich Lenin next? Although a debate has been raging for more than a year about whether to remove Lenin's body from the mausoleum, talk now is also focusing on a large statue of the Soviet founder in Moscow's October Square.

Nikolai Lukash, a spokesman for Moscow's reformist Mayor Gavril Popov, said in an interview that the mayor is "categorically against" removing the statue.

The mayor said recently he does not condone getting rid of monuments that have artistic value. Other opponents of mov-

ing Lenin say history should not be rewritten.

Still others are just reluctant to give Lenin up. Commonly referred to as the "vozhd," or great leader, many absolve him of all responsibility for a communist paradise gone wrong after he died in 1924.

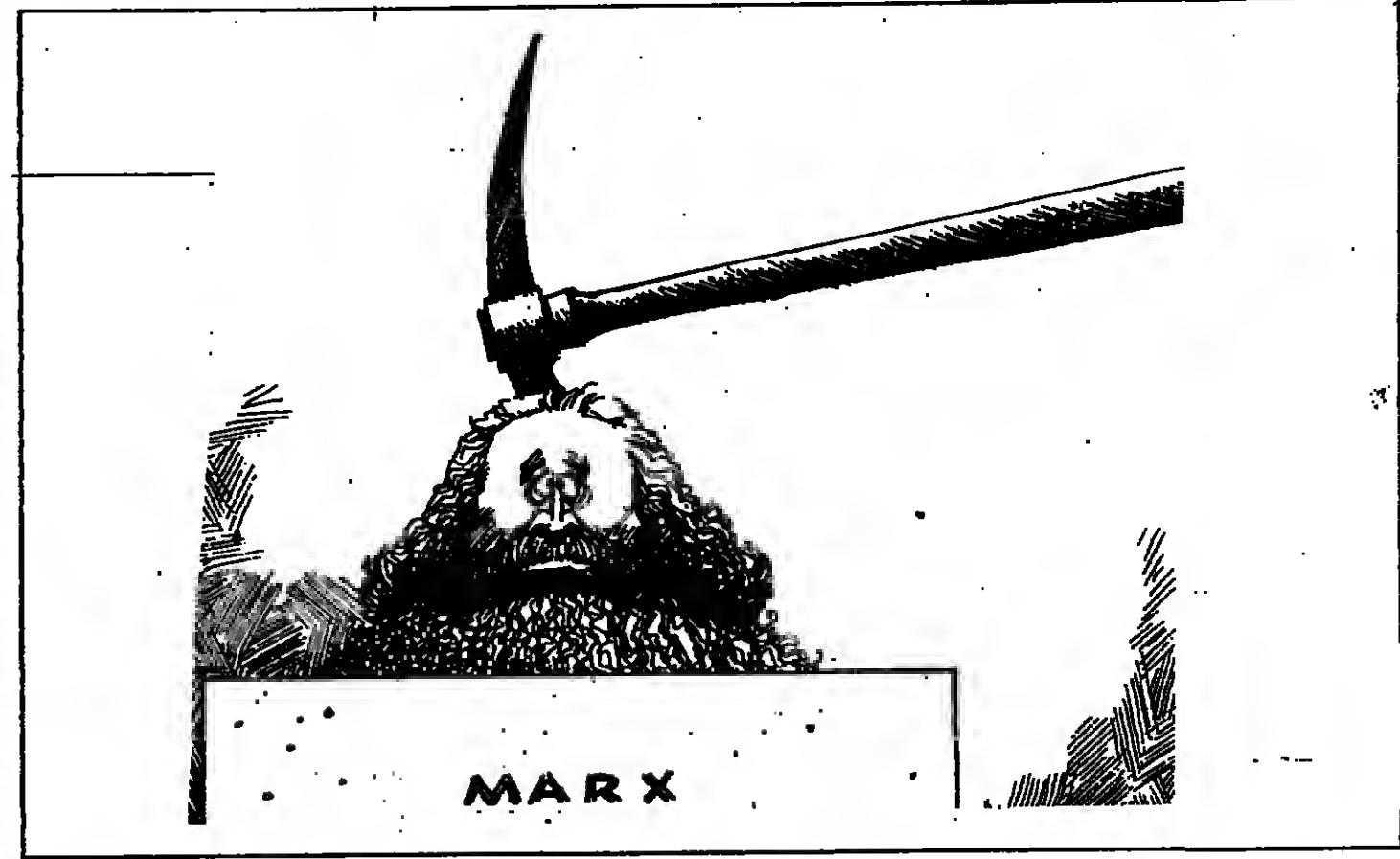
Anatoly and Valentina Kipa, a retired couple in their early 60s, travelled 1,900 kilometres from the Russian city of Prokhladni on Tuesday to visit the mausoleum, where Lenin's body has been lying in a glass case since shortly after his death.

"He's our great leader, our teacher, our friend, our comrade," Ms. Kipa said. "Thanks to him we had the revolution, the land was given to the peasants, and the factories to the workers."

Roma, a factory worker from Ulan Ude in the Buryat Autonomous Republic of Siberia who declined to be identified further, also made a beeline to the mausoleum when she arrived in Moscow on holiday.

"We're a small nationality, and without Lenin we wouldn't have survived. We didn't have a written language and we were poor," she said.

"Lenin helped us. Before



Lenin, only the rich were allowed to study, to work."

Valery Tschilyarovsky, 16, came to Lenin's tomb because he had read so much about the Soviet leader in school. A love for Lenin is inculcated in virtually

every schoolchild starting from an early age.

"I think Lenin is our great leader, not because we were taught that in school, but because history has proved him right," he said. "Lenin made the revolu-

tion. If Lenin's ideas had been put into place properly, we'd live well, but they were all turned upside-down."

But not everyone agrees. "This certainly isn't a holy place for me," said Engineer

Yevgey Raskazov, standing on Red Square not far from the tomb.

"Everybody knows who's lying there. From the very beginning he was responsible for causing blood to flow," he said.

## The week in print

## Why writers supported the Soviet coup

THE dominant topics in the columns of Jordanian writers in the daily press last week included, among other things, developments in the Soviet Union. Jordanian-Palestinian talks to coordinate Arab stands at the coming peace conference and a range of domestic issues of concern to the majority of the Jordanian public.

A columnist in Al Dustour drew attention to the fact that the changes in the Soviet Union are bound to affect the Islamic republics in the Soviet empire sooner or later. Mo'oes Al Razzaz said that these Islamic republics would most probably demand independence from Moscow and could be moving towards Iran as an Islamic regime. The writer said that the emergence of Islamic republics close to the border of the Soviet Union would be a major power to be reckoned with in the future.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily defended the Jordanian Press for the manner it adopted in covering the developments in the Soviet Union. Tareq Masarweh said that the headlines in the local press were not different from those appearing in the newspapers of the United States and Britain. But he said that the columnists' views and commentaries on these developments expressed the true feelings of the people who feel that they were betrayed by the Soviet Union under the Gorbachev regime.

The Gorbachev regime has sent hundreds of thousands of Jews to be settled in occupied Palestine, gave America and its allies a free hand to deal with the affairs of the world through the United Nations and allowed the NATO alliance to launch aggression on Iraq, the writer continued.

As true Arabs and nationalists, the Jordanian people had no alternative but to side with the Palestinians and the Iraqis and to express joy over the downfall of the Gorbachev regime, Mr. Masarweh said.

A columnist in Sawt Al

Shaab directly accused the United States and world Zionism of being behind the tragic disturbances in the Soviet Union, and the emergence of Boris Yeltsin who is America's man in Moscow. Salameh Ekour said that the ongoing chaos in the Soviet Union has led to the liquidation of the Soviet Communist Party and brought to an end the gains made under the previous Soviet leadership in the fields of economy, science and technology.

The writer said that the Jordanian people are sad to witness such deterioration in the Soviet Union as it realises that the world Zionism and the United States stand behind these developments designed to bring down the Soviet empire.

A columnist in Al Dustour said that the Jordanian people should take a lesson from the downfall of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union and take extra care in choosing the right men as members of their political parties which are now in the making.

Mohammad Daoudieh said that the previous Soviet regime was right in preventing the political parties to infiltrate in the Soviet military organisation because these parties have now proved to have worked in secret and in collaboration with the Soviet Jews to bring down the Communist Party.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab said that the Soviet perestroika was a name under which the enemies of the Soviet people and the friends of the United States worked to bring about the downfall of the Soviet empire. Suleiman Qubeilat said that the aim of bringing down the regime and the Communist Party was not to end socialist rule, but rather to end the Soviet Union as a federation so that it would become a small and ineffective power in world affairs.

Under Mr. Gorbachev and his perestroika, the Soviet people's standard of living declined as hunger became more widespread and the currency

dropped in value by at least 98 per cent, said Fahd Al Fanek in his column in Al Ra'i daily. The writer said that by implementing his ideas through perestroika, Mr. Gorbachev had paved the ground for the United States to end the so-called Soviet empire and to dismember the Soviet Federation. He said that by following in the footsteps of the United States at the U.N. Security Council in return for a handful of dollars, Mr. Gorbachev in effect destroyed the image of his country as a superpower and paved the way for the current chaos that is flourishing and the turmoil which is bound to expand in the Soviet Union.

Several writers attacked Egypt and its leadership which have been launching propaganda campaigns against Jordan. Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the hostile campaigns emerged in the wake of Jordan's publication of the white paper which threw light on the developments during and after the Gulf crisis and vindicated Jordan from any accusations and charges levelled at it by Egypt and other regimes in the Arab World, the paper noted.

The white paper has openly disclosed that Egypt, among other Arab states, have been pushing the United States and its allies to launch aggression on Iraq.

Instead of keeping quiet over its shameful actions, the Egyptian regime has opened fire on Jordan and its leadership which have been striving to protect Arab interests and prevent the presence of foreign forces in Arab land, the paper added.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab said that the Egyptian leadership is reverting to lies and false accusations in its current propaganda campaign against Jordan which has taken a strong national stand in the face of the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq. Jihad Al Momani said that the Jordanian white paper has exposed the treachery of President Hosni Mubarak and his regime against the Arab

Nation and has provided evidence that Egypt was behind the campaign on Iraq for the sake of ensuring continued flow of U.S. dollars from the Gulf states.

Another columnist said that it was Jordan which paved the way for Egypt to return to the Arab fold after being ostracised by the Arab World for 10 years following the signing of its treaty with Israel. Abdul Rahim Omar said it was a mistake on the part of Jordan which has now discovered that Egypt wanted to return to the Arab fold in order to lead the conspiracy against Iraq.

Under Mr. Mubarak and his regime, said the writer, Egypt has been transformed into the voice of the U.S.-Israeli alliance and a tool to implement Zionist goals in the Arab World.

Sawt Al Shaab daily turned its attention to the situation arising from the lack of coordination among Arab countries in confrontation with Israel. The paper said that as the time for the peace conference drew nearer the Arab masses can see no coordination among the Arab countries with regard to the agenda and the topics to be discussed. Furthermore, it said, the PLO has not yet reached a final position with regard to the peace conference, rendering the Arab countries' position weak and ineffective.

Since the Arabs want a just and honourable peace, the paper said, they ought to work for it, lest Israel or the Bush administration destroy the last chance for such a historic development.

Echoing this view was Taber Al Udwan who writes for Al Dustour daily. The writer said that today, the people in the street know nothing about the nature of the coming conference which has been called for by James Baker during his tour of the Arab states. If the coming conference is a good thing for the Arabs, the time has come for the Arab masses to

be informed of its terms of reference and its objectives, the writer added.

He said that the time has come for the Arab leaders to confront the situation with courage and to rise to the level of responsibility in dealing with the facts on the ground.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab was critical of the conflicting statements by the leaders of the PLO. Salameh Ekour noted that while the PLO leadership has shown tendency to send an independent delegation to the peace conference, voices from within the PLO leadership have been advocating otherwise. The writer said that at sometime we hear PLO calls for a joint delegation with the Jordanians and at another we hear the PLO wanting a joint Arab delegation grouping the PLO, Jordan and Syria.

What should be clear to all, he said, is that any delegation going to the conference should be approved by the PLO whether the talks are to be conducted through a joint delegation or not. The writer urged the PLO to reach a speedy solution to this issue.

A writer in Sawt Al Shaab daily bemoans the educational situation in Jordan. Ahmad Dabbas said that it had become common knowledge that the educational standards in Jordan are deteriorating and that this year's Tawjihi examinations have given prominence to this fact.

This year the government is burdened with the arrival of 70,000 expatriate children who have been admitted to government schools costing the country millions of extra dinars for their education, the writer noted. He said that what is needed at the moment was an improvement of the employment condition of teachers and closer cooperation between schools and the parents so that the country can produce a generation of educated young men and women able to serve their country.

A columnist in Al Dustour drew attention to the deteriorating health services in government-run hospitals and health centres. Ahmad Jamil Shaker said that the return to Jordan of thousands of expatriates has placed additional burdens on the Ministry of Health in general and on the Al Bashir hospital in particular because this hospital offers services to 70 per cent of the capital's residents. The writer called on the government to set up other hospitals in Amman to offer services at cost price since most of the people of Jordan are not able to pay for their medical treatment at private hospitals.

Ahmad Al Dabbas, who writes for Sawt Al Shaab, said that Jordan is facing a human tragedy with the return of 300,000 expatriates from Kuwait and Gulf countries. The writer said that the world community ought to extend a helping hand to the Kingdom to enable it to cope with the new burdens and the United States ought to stop its pressure on the national economy. The Kingdom, he said, is trying to offer humanitarian assistance to the expatriates, but its efforts are being hampered by hostile forces and aggressive attitudes on the part of the United States.

A writer in Al Ra'i daily focused attention on the Jordanian writers and said they suffer because the literary movement is not attracting the public interest due to the fact that the official information circles failed to help promote the cultural movement in a proper and effective manner. Mahmoud Shuqar said that the Jordanian writers and authors shoulder the burden of having to cover the cost of publishing their work, a burden that could be taken over the official information circles and carried out at minimum cost. The writer also blamed the universities for their failure to give support to the Jordanian writers and the literary movement in Jordan.



## A pharmacy in downtown Baghdad

By Barbara Nimri Aziz

AN elderly man stands at the door of a pharmacy in Baghdad holding a small box of medicine. It's empty. He points it inquiringly in the direction of the druggist. As if knowing the reply, he remains in the doorway until the druggist sees him.

The response of the man behind the counter is all too familiar. "Sorry. No more left." He tries to smile as he shakes his head. The would-be customer also smiles, then disappears into the street. To every inquiry, Mr. Kurdy, the druggist, manages to reply patiently, as if things were normal, as if he hadn't turned away 30 customers before him this morning.

"I've nothing to sell," he confides, nodding towards the shelves. Not only are they practically empty, I notice they are dusty as well. What sits there may well be empty boxes, as in a display window. Every day, since the bombing stopped, Mr. Kurdy, arrives to Rashid Street and opens his shop. "I offer what little I have," he shrugs. He's a tall man, and he is terribly weary looking.

It is May now, nine months since the boycott against Iraq began. Medicines were to be excluded from the U.N. embargo.

Mr. Kurdy had reopened his shop soon after the bombing ceased, in early March. Despite having little to sell, he needed to get out of the house, to determine something in his life, however minor.

Those six weeks, while the bombs rained over his city, all the family stayed indoors, as if imprisoned. Going to work meant driving all the way into town from his Mansour house, a trip made not without some sacrifice. At the time, the petrol ration was 30 litres per car for 20 days. But Mr. Kurdy had to get out. He would pool with another shopkeeper. Every other day they used Mr. Kurdy's car and this way they got through the 20 days.

At the pharmacy, the first job was repairing the windows and glass cabinets. Everything was smashed by the shudder of the earth and the crying sky during those days and nights of bombing. "You've heard bombs like that, haven't you," Mr. Kurdy asked me wryly.

He knew I hadn't. He didn't want to talk about what was happening to his country. Eweo my most friendly querries, he countered with anger.

He didn't ask about his family in the States. So I began. "They are worried; they were unable to phone..." He broke in. Turning to me he said: "Phones, you have phones in America?" I tried to smile. But I knew it was no joke.

A year before, I was in Baghdad to see this family and to celebrate with them. Mr. Kurdy's eldest daughter Muna had married that month. It was a love marriage, finally consummated when, after two years, this sceptical, proud father gave the couple his blessing. Then things were going well. Yesterday, the boy, was hopeful about getting a job in the

forestry department; he had studied agriculture but preferred forestry. The youngest girl was preparing for her high school finals and everyone knew she would excel. The war with Iran left no casualties in this family. The Kurdy had reason to feel optimistic.

Finally, Mr. Kurdy offered me a stool and sat me in front of the standing fan in the middle of the shop. He had fallen silent again, so I continued. I recalled his youngest girl's preoccupation with her exams last year. Was she well? I asked. Mr. Kurdy turned to me. "We are starving. All of us," he added. He glared directly into my eyes.

I was relieved when another customer came in and the old man got up to look at the paper he held in his hand. The druggist once again shook his head. He moved to resume his seat beside me. Again someone stood in the doorway of the shop. Walking inside, he too offered a piece of paper to the proprietor.

My eyes stayed on the young man. He was a soldier's age. His thick brown hair was clipped with the same exactness as every soldier I'd ever seen in the country. He wore a tropical suit, soft blue in colour. On his feet were black sandals.

Against his chest, he held his right arm, as if it were hurting. With his free left hand he reached around to his trouser pocket and pulled out an empty vial. "Do you have this as well?" he asked as he passed it to my friend. Mr. Kurdy walked behind the counter, reaching the label as he passed by.

The handsome face of the customer fixed on me for a moment, then turned inward. His arm was smacking. He clutched it tenderly as if it were a child he was urging to be patient.

A fresh, clean bandage of simple, white gauze was wrapped several times around his right wrist. I found myself unable to turn my eyes away.

Below the wrist there was nothing. He had no hand. When Mr. Kurdy came over to the handless man, he offered him a box of medicines. About the prescription on the paper, he said nothing. I saw the young man didn't want to go. He needed to talk, perhaps.

He held his arm out to the older man, to introduce the subject, as if Mr. Kurdy hadn't seen it. Perhaps it disturbed him that the druggist had not ooted the oewly wrapped stump.

"I was in Karbala for some days," he volunteered, "and this is what I got there."

Mr. Kurdy did not comment.

Karbala is the holy city of south Baghdad. Along with Najaf it was the centre of a civil rebellion. News reporters called it the Shiite uprising. It erupted after the allied bombing ended and it went on for some 20 days until government troops had crushed the rebels.

With his cleanly bandaged stump, the soldier now lifted the shirt of his suit and with the remaining hand he pushed his waistband down an inch or so. "Here is one bullet hole," he pointed to the mark on his skin. Leaving this, he next

raised his shirt slightly. "Here is another. They did three operations on me altogether."

He was ready to talk on, I could tell. But Mr. Kurdy said: "Ayeb (shame), put your shirt down. I'll try to get you that medicine."

The soldier nodded to me as he left. The older man seemed relieved that he was finally gone.

When the druggist took his seat, he said nothing about the incident I had just witnessed; he knew I had followed the conversation. I doubted he would even tell his wife or a colleague what had happened today.

The pharmacist is a lean man; all his children are tall like him. I remembered. Still, I could see he was thinner this year. This I noticed of every Iraqi I had met before. Middle class people, they ate and drank well, normally. In the past, Mr. Kurdy, like his compatriots, had enjoyed an occasional whisky.

"There is nothing to eat," he said, finally.

If someone had a coin to buy a cigarette or a cold drink, or a small glass of tea with sugar, they were happy. Generally it was simply one shopkeeper buying from another.

All of them are now into the routine of coming to their shops by ten, and they stay until sunset. No one knows how long the embargo will go on.

Barbara Nimri Aziz is an anthropologist and writer based in New York.

## Communist textbook to publish last look at communism

By Laura Myers  
The Associated Press

STANFORD, California — The yearbook on international communist affairs is being consigned to the dustbin of history.

This year's 25th anniversary edition will be the last, its editors say — communism just isn't that interesting anymore.

"We recognise the time has come to quietly put the yearbook away. It's no longer needed," said Margit Grigory, managing editor of the volume published by the Hoover Institution on war, revolution and peace, a conservative think tank at Stanford University.

When the Berlin wall came down in 1989, the book's editors "could see the writing on the wall, as it were," Ms. Grigory said Tuesday.

The decision to end publication with the 1991 edition's release in October was made several months before last week's coup and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The last edition will cover 1990 events.

"Unhappily, the yearbook will be somewhat out of date by the time it appears," Mr. Grigory said. "But happily, it's a sign that the ideology behind what was in the yearbook has disappeared."

The Hoover Institution isn't alone in rethinking its communism-related writings. The upheaval in the Soviet Union has authors, scholars, publishers and map makers worldwide scrambling to keep up with the revolutionary changes.

"It becomes kind of a horse race to see who can hold off going to the printer the longest and include the latest information," said Katie Vignery, an executive editor with Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Inc. in Austin, Texas. The publisher is busy revising its world history textbook for high schools.

Rand McNally of Skokie, Ill., the world's largest commercial map maker, has developed several contingency plans to cope with upheaval in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. The question is when to go to press.

If many of the Soviet republics and sections of Yugoslavia do attain independence, said Rand McNally Spokesman Cooroy Erickson, "we potentially have the most sweeping changes in the map and the most complicated one since the large numbers of countries became independent from their colonial overseers in Africa in the 1950s and 1960s."

The Hoover Institution's yearbook began in 1966 with a 765-

page volume, about 100 pages bigger than this year's edition. With 2,000 copies published each year, it is a bestseller for the think tank.

The Hoover Institution has studied communism since 1919, two years after the Bolshevik revolution, and claims the largest collection in the world of documents related to war and revolution.

Its yearbook, which sells for \$59, does not include photos of communist leaders and is a fairly dry read.

"We try to put the communist parties in each country in context," Mr. Grigory said. "We talk about the party itself, the relationship to its own government and international contacts."

The yearbook had 85 contributors gathering facts on ruling and non-ruling communist parties in 125 countries in 1990.

Raymond Garthoff, a senior fellow in Foreign Policy Studies at the Brookings Institute in Washington, said the yearbook was the Bible for scholars seeking information on communism throughout the world.

But he added, "the communist movement has essentially evaporated, so it's appropriate to close down the yearbook. The communist countries left are hardly worth such close study."

## Azerbaijan republic declares independence

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Krutinin said he understood Mr. Yeltsin had come to discuss issues related to independence, and that details of the visit were being kept secret for security reasons.

Lithuania announced that it has signed an agreement with the Soviet KGB to allow joint Soviet-Lithuanian patrols of the border with Poland.

The protocol for the first time will permit visitors to enter Lithuania without a Soviet visa, said Lithuanian Defence Minister Andrius Butkevicius.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Olympic Committee in Moscow endorsed bids by all three Baltic republics to restore their independent status in the Olympic Games. And in the Latvian capital, Riga, there was dismay about the U.S. reluctance to recognise their independence.

Lithuania is the second Baltic nation after Latvia to set up joint patrols with the Soviets. Estonia's parliament Thursday also voted to create its own customs agency to control its borders.

Soviet customs and border guards duties are controlled by the KGB.

In other developments, TASS said Friday that authorities Thursday night arrested suspected legislature Speaker Anatoly Lukyanov, who is accused of having had a role in the coup attempt.

The Supreme Soviet legislature Thursday stripped Mr. Lukyanov of his parliamentary immunity and voted to have him arrested and charged with treason, which

is punishable by death. Mr. Lukyanov, a former law school colleague of Mr. Gorbachev's, has denied any role in the coup (see page 8).

The national legislature Thursday formally knocked out the central pillar of power that betrayed the Soviet president last week. The Supreme Soviet voted to suspend the Soviet Communist Party's activities nationwide and freeze its bank accounts.

The ban was temporary, pending an investigation of the party's role in the coup. But the suspension was a death knell for the once-mighty organisation whose arms for seven decades reached into nearly every aspect of life.

It followed an avalanche of resignations by Communists and bans on party activity in many republics.

Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Yeltsin, who are governing the Soviet Union under a vague power-sharing pact, both sent representatives to Kazakhstan Thursday after receiving reports of the demonstrations there.

Meanwhile, the Baltic republics, which have signed treaties with Russia securing their borders, basked in international attention as the foreign ministers of France and Sweden arrived to reestablish ties broken by 50 years of Soviet rule.

The Ukraine earlier Thursday forestalled a potentially dangerous rift with Russia by signing a landmark military and economic alliance that bypassed the Kremlin. But Ukrainian leaders planned to create their own army anyway.

A Ukrainian army is needed to

defend against "a revival of Russian imperialist thinking," said lawmaker Stepan Khmara.

"Only when the Soviet army is broken up will be able to say the empire has died," said Mr. Khmara, a former political prisoner.

In a radio address, Mr. Yeltsin said his government was in control of events in the country 12 days after the short-lived coup was launched.

Mr. Yeltsin said he was maintaining contacts with Mr. Gorbachev and all republic leaders. He said the central government would be pared down to an administrative centre with strictly limited powers "for the coordination of economic reform, for the armed forces, the nuclear potential and others."

In another apparent sign Mr. Yeltsin was trying to dispel concern over his policies, TASS reported that Pravda will resume publishing Saturday as an independent newspaper rather than the mouthpiece of the Communist Party.

Mr. Yeltsin had suspended it because of its support for the failed coup, and the paper had not appeared since Aug. 23. Critics said the suspension was undemocratic.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas visited Latvia and Estonia Friday, a day after announcing France will open an embassy in Vilnius and set aside land for a Lithuanian embassy in Paris.

Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson flew to the Estonian capital, Tallinn, Thursday to open the first Western embassy.

## Iraq denounces Kuwaiti charges

(Continued from page 1)

was a "clear infringement of United Nations and Arab League resolutions and a blatant violation" of the Gulf war ceasefire. Western sources in Kuwait asserted that if Iraqi soldiers were involved then they were

apparently seeking to scavenge ammunition abandoned there when they withdrew from Kuwait in late February.

He warned that the "Iraqi" action, "may have a direct negative impact on the peace atmosphere in the region and consequently lead to a fresh escalation of the situation."

## 'Bessmertnykh backed coup'

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Pankin told Soviet television Thursday that he will stick to the line "formulated by the lawful leadership of the country. And of course healing those most heavy wounds which were inflicted on our foreign policy by the putsch."

Asked to encapsulate his policies, he said: "To join the world of civilised nations." Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Shevardnadze have expressed similar goals.

"All these years, I have followed the foreign policy known as the course of Gorbachev-Shevardnadze," Mr. Pankin said in a separate interview published by the newspaper Izvestia.

Mr. Shevardnadze told the independent Interfax news agency that Mr. Gorbachev did not consult him before appointing Mr. Pankin.

Western diplomats described morale in the Soviet Foreign Ministry as low, and said that many Soviet foreign service officers expected cuts of up to 50 per cent in the staff as power flows to

Russia and other republics.

Even before the coup, the Russian Federation government had posted its own diplomats in Soviet embassies in Washington and some other capitals, and Russian officials have spoken of sending more envoys abroad.

"Now there is a change in the weight of forces in foreign affairs between the centre and the republics," said Andrei Zyrianov, a spokesman for the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Zyrianov said the appointment of Mr. Pankin and the foreign policy that will grow out of last week's failed coup will be "better for all the world, except for a very few totalitarian regimes."

He expected Mr. Pankin to concentrate on improving relations with the United States "first of all" and with Western Europe.

Mr. Pankin is not a professional foreign service officer and his early career revolved around the communist youth organisation, the Komsomol. He was posted to Prague to sort out relations with the democratic government that took power there in 1989.

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## American breaks world's oldest record with mighty long jump

TOKYO (R) — American Mike Powell broke the oldest individual world record in the books Friday with a mighty long jump of 8.95 metres on the sixth day of the World Athletics Championships.

Powell flew past the marker denoting Bob Beamon's mark of 8.90 metres set at high altitude at the 1968 Mexico Olympics with his fifth jump in the men's final.

In an astonishing competition on a warm, humid evening Powell also landed defending champion Carl Lewis his first defeat in 10 years.

Lewis, who also exceeded Beamon's mark with a wind-assisted 8.91 metres, had won 65 consecutive competitions since 1981.

Initially attention was focused on Lewis, who was obviously determined to try to break a record some experts had predicted would last into the next century.

He edged past Beamon's record with his fourth jump assisted by a following wind 2.9 metres a second, above the allowable limit of two metres a second.

But then Powell forced his way into the picture with a tremendous leap which also looked past Beamon's record.

His initial elation turned into dejection when the judges ruled that he had overstepped the takeoff board.

The 27-year-old Olympic silver medalist made no such mistake with his fifth attempt.

Aided by a slight following wind of 0.3 metres a second he raced down the runway, took off and seemed to hang in the air for

an eternity before landing well in front of Beamon's mark.

Lewis gave everything he had with his fifth and sixth efforts, recording 8.87 and 8.84 metres but they were only good enough for second place.

Before Friday only Beamon and Soviet Robert Emmiyan had ever jumped over 8.80 metres.

Powell raced down the track and back again when the distance was flashed on the scoreboard.

He then leapt in the air and waved his right fist.

When he finally calmed down Powell told reporters: "This was a dream come true."

"I jumped the way I had planned and it's like living a dream."

"The runway was so fast."

"When Carl came up for his last jump I honestly thought he would beat me — I hope he lets me keep the record for a little while."

"When I jumped 8.54 I was just striding. I knew then I was ready for the big one."

Lewis, struggling to conceal his disappointment, said: "He had the best jump of his life."

"This has been the best competition of my career."

Almost unnoticed in the feverish excitement surrounding the long jump, the women's field assembled for the 200 metres final.

Rain, which had held off for the duration of the long jump final, began to fall as Jamaica's Merlene Ottey prepared to

avenge her defeat by German Katrin Krabbe in the 100 final.

However, in a repeat of that race, Ottey could manage only

third behind Krabbe and American Gwen Torrence and collapsed to the track in bitter disappointment after the race.

Krabbe held a slight advantage at the curve then pulled away steadily in the straight.

Ottey, realising she was beaten, faded badly over the final few metres allowing Torrence to repeat her 100 metres silver medal performance. Krabbe clocked 22.09 seconds, Torrence 22.16 and Ottey 22.21.

Liz Mooligan won Britain's first gold medal of the championships with a runaway win in the women's 10,000 metres.

The Olympic silver medalist moved doggedly to the front and burned off all her potential challenges to win by more than 20 seconds from Chinese Zhong Huandi.

Another Chinese, Wang Xintong, took the bronze.

In other events, Dan O'Brien won the decathlon with the third highest total ever, 8,812 points, giving the United States the lead in gold and overall medals.

O'Brien's gold was the eighth for the Americans, one more than the Soviets, and 20th overall, also one more than the Soviets. The championships conclude Sunday.

Britain's Daley Thompson set the decathlon record of 8,847 at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Michael Smith finished second behind O'Brien with 8,549, a Canadian national record, and Christian Schenk of Germany third with 8,394.

O'Brien needed to run the

1,500 metres, last event of the decathlon, in 4:32.14 for a world record. However, a wet track slowed him to 4:37.50, still good enough to break Bruce Jenner's American decathlon record of 8,634 points set at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal.

Lyndia Narozhenko of the Soviet Union took the women's 100 hurdles in 12.59. Gail Devers-Roberts of the United States finished second in 12.63 and Natalya Grigoryeva of the Soviet Union was third in 12.69.

Soviet sprinter Lina Silyar became the second athlete to fail a dope test at the World Athletics Championships, officials announced Friday.

They said a urine sample taken after her 100 metres second round heat Monday, when she placed third, showed she had taken the substance strophane.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said they had asked the Soviet Federation to suspend Silyar from competition pending a hearing.

The IAAF said strophane, a deadly poison which can be used as a stimulant in minute doses, would normally involve a three-month ban.

Silyar was eliminated in the semifinals of the 100 metres Tuesday when she finished sixth.

On Thursday, the IAAF said American 800 metres runner Delia Floyd would be banned for four years for failing a dope test which showed she had taken amphetamines.

Unlike amphetamines, stimulants do not fall under the IAAF's new rule increasing the automatic ban from two to four years.

## German swimming empire is in decline after unity

ATHENS (AP) — East Germany was considered the world's swimming powerhouse, its athletes gliding through the water with nearly mechanical efficiency to win the lion's share of gold at international competitions.

But east Germany no longer exists. And neither does German swimming supremacy.

At the World Championships in Perth, Australia, held eight months ago, and the 20th European championships, which finished Sunday, gave the sports world its first taste of Germany after reunification.

What the world saw was the decline of the German swimming empire.

In Perth, German men won just three gold medals, the women only one. In Athens, Germany won six gold medals, four in swimming and two in diving.

By comparison, the Soviet Union, the former No. 2 on the continent, left the European championships with 16 gold medals, nine coming from swimming events.

"There were many mistakes made, serious mistakes," said Hans Hartog, chief of the German swimming delegation.

At the 1988 Olympics, Germans won 12 gold medals, albeit all but two of them by east German women.

In its last appearance as a country at the 19th European championships in Bonn two years ago, east Germany won 15 gold medals in swimming, 14 of them by women. The only West German gold came in the men's 400-metre freestyle relay.

The east Germans have won the largest number of gold medals at European championships with a total of 142. After Sunday, the Soviet Union had 97 and Hungary 49.

"Reunification caused rifts between the swimming federations," said Kristin Otto, a four-time individual gold medalist for east Germany at Seoul, South Korea. "One federation decides how, but another programmes. It is obvious they won't all agree. The athletes had to change their programmes after reunification."

Otto, a world record holder in the 100 freestyle who attended the Athens championships as a commentator for German television network and did not compete, added that a climate of prejudice exists between sports officials from the two former

countries.

"The battle over how many former east German coaches would come (to Athens) had a negative effect because only two came," she said. Many of the swimmers in Athens were former east Germans.

German swimming officials have not publicly explained all the reasons behind what many people have simply termed "the crisis."

The crisis is real for such former east German athletes as Nils Rudolph and Daniela Hunger. Rudolph dedicated his gold medal in the 50-metre freestyle to his team.

This medal is very important because there is a crisis in the team, so this medal will help," Rudolph said after breaking the European record.

Hunger put her hands together in prayer and wept openly after winning the 200-metre medley. She said her medal "is bound to build our team's morale."

Many athletes privately say the cause of the crisis is a shortage of funds for sports in the united Germany.

"Governmental funds for sport are limited in the united Germany," said Michael Gross, the 1988 Olympic 200 butterfly gold medalist. A former west German also known as the "Albatross," Gross has won three Olympic gold medals, five World Championship golds and 10 European Championship golds.

But the money shortage is not the only reason for the decline.

Some trainers say the lack of government imposed discipline over the daily lives of east German athletes and the radical change in lifestyle has affected their performance.

"Maybe it is because the east German athletes had some privileges they no longer have. Maybe they are having problems adjusting to their new life," German Swimming Federation President Bodo Hollemann said.

"We have had good swimmers for the past 20 years, but because of east German doping they never showed through," said Gyorgy Zemplenyi, head of the Hungarian swimming delegation.

Zemplenyi, who had two swimmers break world and European records in Athens, added, "I have nothing against the German team, but after reunification we found out about the doping, and that was the reason for their success."

## French driver escapes accident unhurt at Monza

MONZA, Italy (AP) — French Formula One driver Olivier Grouillard badly damaged his Fondmetal race car but escaped unhurt from a high-speed crash during tests for the Italian Grand Prix at the Monza Autodrome Thursday.

The 32-year-old Frenchman went off a curve while moving at about 300 kph (186 mph), left the track and landed into the sands and grass on the side of the

course.

"I actually flew off the track and the landing was violent," explained Grouillard as he walked back to the pits.

Tests of several teams were suspended temporarily following Grouillard's accident.

McLaren-Honda, Williams-Renault, Ferrari and several other teams are testing their cars at Monza for the Sept. 8 race.

## Panel to decide whether South Africa can join Gymnastics Championships

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Whether South African athletes may compete in the World Gymnastics Championships will not be decided until two days before the competition begins Sept. 6, an official has said.

"We realise this is somewhat inconvenient for the South African athletes," said Mike Jacki, executive director of the U.S. Gymnastics Federation.

Jacki said the team was expected to arrive in Indianapolis Friday, and the International Gymnastics Federation's executive committee would meet Wednesday to vote on whether they will be allowed to compete.

South Africa last appeared in the Gymnastics Championships in 1966 before it was banned from international competition because of its apartheid system of racial discrimination.

The International Gymnastics provisionally accepted the South Africans' application during a meeting last month in Amsterdam.

dam "with the understanding that we were going to review the situation," Jacki said.

That decision followed the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) lifting of an Olympic competition ban after South Africa began dismantling apartheid. The ban must also be lifted by the governing bodies of each sport.

"We were really caught off guard by the IOC decision," Jacki said. "It would have been better if they had said there was a six-month moratorium."

A month later, athletes began pouring into Indianapolis to prepare for the competition, which is qualifying event for the 1992 Olympics. The top 12 teams will compete next year in Barcelona.

"We just didn't have enough time to properly respond. This is an extremely sensitive issue with significant political ramifications," Jacki said. "We were just really put in a very awkward position."

## Taiwanese men, South Korean women bowlers win

SINGAPORE (AP) — Taiwan won the five-member team event for men and South Korea captured the gold medal for women at the World Tenpin Championships.

Using their unorthodox "helicopter spin" delivery, Taiwan's Y.C. Ma, Tang Chien Yi, Lin Chiao Hsiung, Lai Te Lin and Yang Cheng Ming had a 6,021-pinfall. The technique involves a lot of wrist action to send the ball spinning like a top down the lane, which spectators have likened to rotating helicopter blades.

Making a strong overnight

surge from 18th place, the Philippines finished second with 6,011 pinfalls. The Netherlands was third with 5,968, followed by Sweden 5,949 and Finland 5,943.

The South Korean team of Hong Hyun Suk, Lee Hae Myoung, Cho Mi Suk, Kim Yong Sim and Shin Mi Seon scored 5,850 to win by a 66-pin margin over Finland in the women's competition.

Germany was third with 5,731, followed by the Netherlands 5,672 and the United States 5,654.

## Old man of the U.S. Open keeps on rolling

NEW YORK (R) — Jimmy Connors, the gritty old man of the U.S. Open did not disappoint his adoring audience as he rolled into the third round at the National Tennis Centre.

Connors, who amazed even his most ardent followers with a stunning five-set comeback win Tuesday, had a much easier time in the second round as he swept hard-serving Dutchman Michiel Schapers 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.

The five-times open champion, who is four days away from his 39th birthday, even took time to lead the crowd of nearly 20,000 in cheers as he celebrated his career victory.

"It was a pretty good wave," said Connors, who helped orchestrate the procession of standing fans by brandishing his racket as he turned full circle to lead the cheer.

Connors took it upon himself to help keep the festive atmosphere at Louis Armstrong Stadium alive since his match held none of the drama that marked his first-round struggle against Patrick McEnroe.

The big-serving but slow-moving Schapers had little chance

against Connors, whose vaunted return of serve nullified the Dutchman's primary weapon.

"I came out stiff and sore but I played better tonight," said Connors, who took four hours 18 minutes to come back from two sets down in his opening match.

"After playing Patrick and the kind of tennis I had to play, you can't help but raise your game up a notch as you continue," Connors said.

Connors broke Schaper's serve six times, while losing his own just once in the 102-minute match.

"His serve is not a damaging serve, not a swinging serve. It comes in flat," Connors said about the ease with which he handled his opponent's service.

The one-sided night match victory for Connors, whose groundstrokes bristled with power, mirrored the results posted by most of the top men's players on an oppressively hot and humid day.

One notable exception among the seeds was the victory achieved by 10th-seeded Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia, who needed five sets to overcome Nuno Marques of Portugal 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

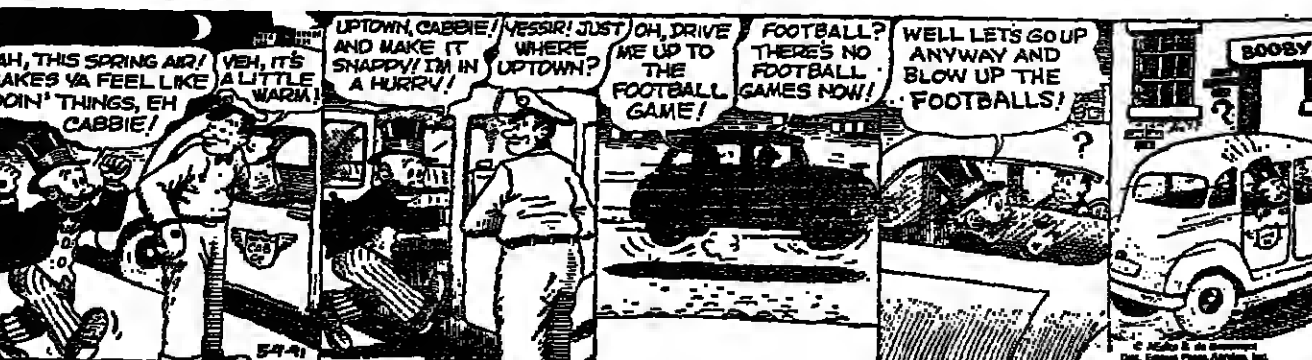
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 31, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until late afternoon very difficult and delaying influences and tactics are likely to be used to prevent much from happening. By evening you tune in on what is best for you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Make a point to do nothing that puts you in an unfavourable light with anyone else today but you have a good chance to contact one in power.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A tiresome condition can drag you down early but get it behind you once and for all time and then you are able to find new outlets open to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A day to make sure that you stick to good friends during the daytime and forget that financial condition that worries but tonight you can be very practical.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You find you have all sorts of urges now to gain the good will of an official but don't give any daring suggestions or there will be problems.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have to be careful you do not get bogged down in projects so you have a chance to get some new ideas that can be most helpful to you today.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) A fresh new interest in that amusement that used to mean so

much to you can bring you much more in harmony and in tune with accepted modes of procedure.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) Whatever disagreement is going on between you and some member of your family and an associate should be cautiously sidestepped by you or you can get in trouble.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have that need now to find out what your usual allies will do to make your days more efficient so forget fun and prepare yourself for any problems.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your mind is focused upon finances and you feel you do not have enough to get along but don't despair as you get some good suggestions.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Now you can use this day to show family during the daytime you can forget your own desires in going along with what others expect of you that if OK.

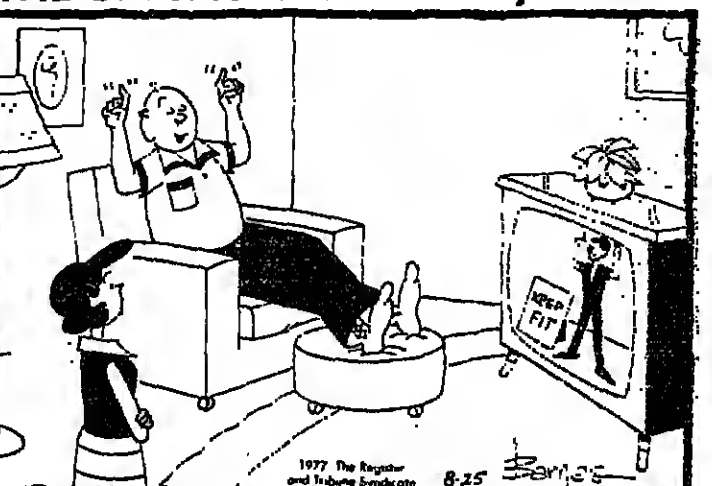
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you would like to do that does necessitate some different approach should be thought out with care and in the privacy of your mind.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make sure now that you do handle those various enigmas facing you with courage and a considerable amount of caution and all will work out.

## Birth Stone for March: Aquamarine.

World Resources: Design & Co. Inc. Jewellers: GALT. Amman: Rio De Janeiro. Amman: Arta 1989. Sin: 0000.

## THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes



"I like him. After all his violent exercises, he has a finger-wiggling drill for us lazy buffs."

## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Answers tomorrow

Answers: Occupied his mind on the way home - "WHAT HE SHOULD HAVE SAID"

Answers: Occupied his mind on the way home - "WHAT HE SHOULD HAVE SAID"

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## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH ©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

BID BOLDLY, PLAY WELL

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

WEST

EAST

WEST

EAST



# Financial Markets

Currency	New York CLOS	Tokyo CLOS
U.S. Dollar	1.6006	1.6075
Deutsche Mark	1.7385	1.7464
Swiss Franc	1.5167	1.5190
French Franc	5.9010	5.8863
Japanese Yen	136.55	136.73
European Currency Unit	1.1874	1.1848

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.68	5.62	5.68	5.87
Deutsche Mark	10.75	10.68	10.50	10.43
Swiss Franc	9.06	9.06	9.25	9.37
French Franc	7.93	7.87	7.81	7.81
Japanese Yen	9.00	9.31	9.31	9.50
European Currency Unit	7.56	7.22	7.00	6.77

Commodity	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
Gold	354.25	6.80	Silver	3.94
Oil				.095

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.690	.692
Deutsche Mark	1.1630	1.1688
Swiss Franc	.3960	.3960
French Franc	.4539	.4562
Japanese Yen	.1167	.1173
Dutch Guilder	.5041	.5066
Scandinavian Krona	.3517	.3535
Italian Lira	.1092	.1097
Belgian Franc	.0531	.0534
Portuguese Escudo	.01920	.01926

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	1.7650	1.7900
Deutsche Mark	.0770	.0780
Swiss Franc	.1835	.1842
French Franc	.1865	.1880
Japanese Yen	.2100	.2300
U.S. Dollar	1.7450	1.7600
U.S. Dollar	.1865	.1880
U.S. Dollar	.3400	.3500
U.S. Dollar	1.4300	1.4400

Index	27/8/1991 Close	28/8/1991 Close
All-Share	106.19	105.61
Banking Sector	99.11	98.37
Insurance Sector	116.42	116.59
Industry Sector	113.25	112.80
Service Sector	129.07	128.98

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

One Sterling	1.6860/70	U.S. dollar	1.1410/15
One U.S. dollar	1.7405/10	Deutsche mark	1.9600/10
	1.9600/10	Dutch guilder	1.5220/25
	35.77/82	Swiss franc	5.9075/9125
	1299/1300	Belgian franc	136.70/80
	6.3170/3220	French franc	6.8010/60
	6.8010/60	Italian lire	6.7185/7235
	6.7185/7235	Japanese yen	347.40/90
	347.40/90	Swedish crown	
		Norwegian crown	
		Danish crown	
		U.S. dollars	

## GATT chief urges political courage to match rhetoric

GENEVA (AP) — Political courage must match political rhetoric if ambitious efforts to reform the international trading order are to succeed, according to the head of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

In a report, GATT Director-General Arthur Dunkel said there was a "window of opportunity" to complete the Uruguay round of trade talks this year provided negotiators showed a "spirit of compromise."

In his introduction to the report on GATT's activities in 1990, Mr. Dunkel said despite continuing stalemate at international level, individual countries had taken "far-sighted trade policy decisions" to liberalize their economic policies.

He said many developing and

east European nations had suffered "the initial economic pain," and lowered trade barriers in the expectation they would benefit from greater export access with the conclusion of the Uruguay round.

The 108-nation round, named after the country in which it was launched in 1986, should have ended last December with accords to lower barriers to exports and extend fair trade rules to previously uncovered areas like services such as banking.

But a ministerial meeting in Brussels collapsed because of the refusal of the European Community to accept drastic cuts in farm subsidies demanded by the United States and other food exporting nations.

The Europeans fear that massive cuts in agricultural supports will threaten the existence of their small but politically powerful farmers. The United States say such subsidies must be slashed by at least 75 per cent as they give European farmers an unfair advantage on world markets.

## Swiss remain world's most insured people

ZURICH (AP) — The Swiss remain the world's most insured people, outpacing Japanese and Americans on premiums, according to a survey. The Zurich-based Swiss Re, one of the world's largest reinsurance companies, said that in 1989, the Swiss spent \$2.376 per capita on private insurance cover. The average expenditure in Japan was \$2.150 and in the United States, ranked third, it was \$1.817. Finland, Sweden, Britain, the Netherlands and Germany followed in that order, with expenditures on premiums ranging between \$1.420 and \$1.250. In contrast, the average private insurance cover in Italy and Spain averaged \$400 or less. Poland, \$2.40, and Turkey, \$8.0, figured at the lower end of the 54-country survey.

## Algeria amends oil law to attract foreigners

ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian National Assembly has adopted amendments to the oil industry law to help foreign exploration companies, primarily from the United States and Japan, to avoid double taxation.

Under the old law, the state petroleum agency Sonatrach paid all taxes on behalf of its foreign partners in return for a share of output from new discoveries.

But American and Japanese companies found the payment was not recognised by their own

tax authorities.

Sonatrach's foreign partners, granted special fiscal status, will now be allowed a maximum 49 per cent share of output from new discoveries and pay 50 per cent of taxes due on that.

Energy Minister Nordine Ait Laoussine told the assembly the amendments would make the law more attractive to foreign investors with whom Algeria was currently negotiating 100 new contracts.

Since December world leaders have repeatedly stressed the importance of the Uruguay round but have made no offers to break the agricultural deadlock.

Talks resume mid-September after the summer break and negotiators at GATT headquarters face an uphill struggle if they are to strike the necessary deals by a new end-of-year target.

A successful conclusion is widely believed necessary to boost sluggish trade growth and contribute to greater global prosperity. Experts say that otherwise there will be an upsurge in protectionism and damaging trade wars.

"We are still seeking a comprehensive and substantial package which will give all participants a positive balance of benefits and concessions," Mr. Dunkel said.

"It remains to be seen if, this time round, political rhetoric is to be complemented by political courage," he pointed out.

The Geneva-based GATT is the sponsor of the Uruguay round and also acts as a rule-book in trade disputes.

## Recession persists

## Survey shows Americans taking dim view of economy

NEW YORK (AP) — Consumer confidence dipped lower in August as Americans still groped for signs of an economic revival, according to a survey by the Conference Board.

The findings by the business-supported research group provided little evidence of a recovery, despite some recent indicators that the American economy was on the rebound.

The Conference Board said its consumer confidence index, which remained virtually unchanged in July, registered a slightly lower 76.3 in August. The index is based on a survey of 5,000 American households.

"The current level of the index has been historically associated with a sluggish economy," said Fabian Linden, head of the Conference Board's Consumer Research Centre.

The survey found consumers taking a slightly rosier view of current conditions but their hopes dimming for an improvement in the economy in the future.

Economists consider the Conference Board's monthly report on consumer confidence an indicator of the economy's health because consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of the gross national product. The economy cannot rebound unless consumers slip up their spending.

The Conference Board said consumer confidence fell while the three-day Soviet coup was in progress early last week. The political turmoil increased consumer uncertainty about the economy.

However, consumer sentiment

presumably rose following the coup's overthrow and the reinstatement of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the Conference Board said.

The survey also showed Americans planned on buying less and were less optimistic about future employment conditions. For the second month in a row, there were fewer respondents who thought there will be more jobs in the months to come.

The U.S. economy contracted at a slight 0.1 per cent annual rate in the April-June quarter, the government said Wednesday, casting doubt on whether the nation has emerged from the recession.

The Commerce Department said the gross national product, the most widely watched measure of economic health, posted a third consecutive negative quarter.

Economic activity slumped a sharp 2.8 per cent in the first quarter of this year and declined 1.6 per cent in the last three

months of 1990.

The second-quarter drop marked a sharp revision from the government's original estimate of a 0.4 per cent advance, which was greeted last month as evidence the economy was climbing out of its first recession in eight years.

The report was seen as strengthening the argument of some economists who believe the economy is in danger of lapsing into a so-called double-dip recession, in which a brief period of revival is followed by a fresh downturn.

The department attributed the revision of its earlier estimate to weaker-than-expected production of goods for inventories and a more modest gain in consumer spending than first thought.

The first change, on inventories, could turn out to be a favourable development for the economy. Lean inventories mean any pickup in sales will quickly translate into increased production at factories and eventually into more jobs.

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Jordan University of Science & Technology has the pleasure in inviting local consultants and international consultants in joint-venture with local consultants to prequalify for the consulting and supervision of the construction of the King Abdullah Teaching Hospital Project.

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Secretary, Central Tendering Committee,

Jordan University of Science & Technology, Irbid, Jordan.

The documents should be submitted to:

Chairman, Central Tendering Committee,

Jordan University of Science & Technology, Irbid, Jordan

at or before 12 noon of October 21st, 1991.

For any inquiries, please contact:

The Director, Department of Engineering Projects,

Jordan University of Science & Technology, Telephone: 295111 Ext.: 2953

Telex: 55545 JUST JO, Fax: 295123

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**Nabil Mashini Theatre**

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## Heavy casualties reported in new flare-up in Croatia

**BELGRADE (R)** — Heavy casualties were reported Friday in Croatia in renewed clashes which shattered a brief lull following new diplomatic efforts to end the bloodshed.

Serbian fighters said they killed 25 Croatian National Guards in Topusko, a town close to the republic's border with Serbia, late Thursday, the Yugoslav News Agency (Tanjug) said.

Croatian television said the breakaway republic's forces repelled attacks on Topusko and other villages.

Local radio said two women were killed in an overnight tank and mortar attack by Serbian guerrillas and the federal army on Croatian villages south of the republic's capital Zagreb.

One guard was wounded in shooting around the strategic east Croatian town of Osijek, where an industrial zone came under machinegun fire and army mortar attacks, the radio said.

The Tanjug report said seven Croatian guardsmen were taken prisoner, four Serbs wounded

and five missing at Topusko.

Casualty figures given by the warring sides vary widely and the latest reports could not be independently confirmed.

The important town of Vukovar near Osijek remained besieged by Serbian guerrillas and army units for the sixth day and a military build-up continued.

The flare-up ended a short respite in Croatia amid fresh European diplomatic gestures and Yugoslav political initiatives to resolve the Serb-Croat conflict, which has claimed more than 300 lives since the republic declared independence along with Slovenia on June 25.

The European Community (EC), the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) and Yugoslavia's ineffectual collective presidency had all announced meetings for next week to bring the struggle back to the negotiating table.

The United States called on all sides Thursday night to implement an immediate, unconditional ceasefire in Croatia and

cooperate with an EC plan to broker an end to the conflict.

The EC launched a new initiative for a peace conference earlier in the week and French President Francois Mitterrand has mediated by holding separate talks in Paris with Croatia's President Franjo Tudjman and Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic.

Serbs say they are fighting to keep Serb-populated areas of Croatia inside Yugoslavia, while Croatia accuses them of seizing territory to enlarge neighbouring Serbia.

Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina all welcomed the EC peace plan, while Serbia and its ally Montenegro have still to respond.

Mr. Milosevic said after the Paris talks with Mr. Mitterrand the onus was on Croatia to enforce a ceasefire.

"The Serbs cannot be described as aggressors if they fight at the doors of their houses and entrances to their villages," he said.

The Croatian head of the eight-

member federal presidency, Stipe Mesic, was pessimistic about the new crisis meetings.

He said the army, which has been fighting on the side of Serbian guerrillas, was out of control and the next presidency session would be the last chance to end the "dirty war."

"The presidency is the supreme commander but it is obvious that the army is acting autonomously," Mr. Mesic said.

Thousands of mothers protesting against the war staged a sit-in at a Belgrade army base through the night to press demands for their sons' return from the army.

Croatian media reported a military build-up, with army reinforcement under way inland from the seaside resort of Dubrovnik, naval movements near the port of Split and tanks moving from the Serbian province of Vojvodina toward Croatia.

The Croatian Interior Ministry said guerrillas had seized a television relay station near Dubrovnik and the local population was cut off from Croatian broadcasts.

## Polish government resigns

**WARSAW (R)** — Polish Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki stunned parliament Friday by announcing the resignation of his eight-month-old Solidarity government.

In a brief, sombre speech he said the government was no longer receiving cooperation from the Sejm (lower house) which is dominated by ex-Communists and their former allies.

Mr. Bielecki indicated that a motion presented by ex-Communist deputies for the government's dismissal Thursday was the last straw.

The motion was tabled during a heated debate on the government's proposal to review the budget and slash public spending because of the deep recession that has struck Poland, reducing government income.

Most deputies expressed outrage at the proposed cuts which appeared to have little chance of approval.

"Yesterday's debate in parliament proved that the possibility of effective cooperation between the government and parliament under the hitherto existing conditions has been worn out," Mr. Bielecki told the Sejm.

He said the ex-Communist proposal for his government to stay on after its dismissal until Poland's first fully-free postwar parliamentary elections are held in October was an unworkable "surrealistic game."

"I do not agree to be the object of a surrealistic game and become a figurehead for several months because this will lead the state into chaos and anarchy," he said.

"For this reason, respecting the rules of democracy, and feeling responsibility for the fate of the state, I present the resignation of the council of ministers which I have had the honour to lead."

The announcement left the 460-member Sejm in shocked silence.

It was not immediately clear if it would accept or reject the resignation.



Jan Krzysztof Bielecki

Mr. Bielecki made it clear he had no intention of staying on in a caretaker capacity and parliament would have to find a new administration to rule until after elections scheduled for Oct. 27.

Mr. Bielecki's government took office on Jan. 12. It was the second Solidarity administration after the overthrow of communist rule in Poland in 1989.

A soft-spoken, little-known Solidarity activist, businessman and free-market economist, his appointment by President Lech Walesa to succeed outgoing Catholic Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki surprised political circles.

Both he and Mr. Walesa have repeatedly complained in recent months of lack of cooperation by the Sejm, accusing it of delaying dozens of economic and political reform bills.

This week the Sejm delayed confirming the dismissal of the president of the National Bank of Poland, who has been suspended in a major banking scandal, and that of the industry minister, whom Mr. Bielecki forced to resign.

Mr. Walesa, who has frequently called for early dissolution of parliament, watched from the gallery as Mr. Bielecki launched a stinging onslaught against the Sejm, saying it should have been dismissed months ago.

Ex-Communists and their allies make up two-thirds of the house, holding reserved seats under an outdated political agreement with Solidarity that smoothed Poland's early transition from Communist rule.

## Sri Lanka president suspends parliament

**COLOMBO (R)** — Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa suspended parliament for a month Friday after two ministers said they were resigning and backing an impeachment motion against him.

The presidential suspension comes into effect from midnight, a statement from the president's office said.

"The next session of the second parliament will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 24," it said.

Political analysts said Mr. Premadasa's move effectively prevents early debate on the impeachment motion, said to have been signed by 120 opposition and government parliamentarians.

The petition, citing 24 charges of abuse of power, corruption and illegal family deals, was submitted to the speaker of parliament Haniffa Mohammad Tuesday.

Education Minister Lalith Athanathudurai told reporters that he was associating himself with the impeachment motion.

"I have sent a letter to the president offering to resign from the cabinet," he said.

Labour Minister G.M. Premachandra said he would submit his resignation Friday.

The two ministers were the first parliamentarians to publicly support the petition.

Mr. Athanathudurai, a senior cabinet minister and ruling United National Party member, said he had been increasingly troubled by problems that had arisen due to a powerful presidency alongside a weakened parliament.

"I believe it is necessary now to move forward together to increase the powers of parliament and have a fully-fledged democracy in Sri Lanka," he said.

Many parliamentarians were concerned at the retention of power by the presidency and the erosion of parliament's power, Mr. Athanathudurai said.

"I have absolutely no doubt that a two-thirds majority will be reached when the motion is debated in parliament."

Under the constitution, the petition must be passed by a two-thirds majority and then submitted to the Supreme Court for an inquiry.

If the court agrees with the charges, the petition goes back to parliament for another vote.

The ruling United National Party controls 125 of the 225 parliamentary seats.

Mr. Premachandra said he was among more than 40 members of parliament to sign the petition.

"Our party had great democratic traditions by those who have been lost in the past few years," he said.

## Man cuts off wife's ear after row over food

**NAIROBI (R)** — Kenyan magistrates jailed a man for seven months for cutting off his wife's ear after she said, at 11 a.m., that she had not prepared lunch. The court in the port city of Mombasa also sentenced Mwero Shakompa to two strokes of the cane for brutality, the daily Nation newspaper reported Friday.

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## New KGB chief fires top managers, plans to cut spying on citizens

**MOSCOW (AP)** — The new KGB chief has fired all top KGB managers but one and plans to eliminate the secret police departments that spy on virtually all aspects of Soviet life.

Ticking off departments, Vadim Bakatin told Russian television that "all this will be reorganised. We'll have three main directorates: Intelligence, counter-intelligence and combating the most dangerous crimes."

That would eliminate the feared secret police agency's most famous functions: Using millions of informers to spy on its own citizens, bugging their homes and telephones and infiltrating their churches and news media.

Although Mr. Bakatin did not specifically mention it, his statement also implied an end to the efforts — widely alleged but not proven — to provoke ethnic violence and political rancor as a means of undermining the non-Communist opposition.

Mr. Bakatin has fired all but one person on the KGB collegium — the Committee of Senior Executives — in the week since he replaced Vladimir Kryuchkov, a leader of the coup that kept Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev captive for three days. Mr. Kryuchkov and three other KGB generals on the collegium have been charged with treason.

Gennady Titov, head of the KGB's counter-intelligence service, told a news conference he

was the only one to escape censure, "probably because I was on vacation" for three weeks before and during last week's failed coup.

Mr. Titov, a 40-year veteran who said he had been kicked out of Britain, Norway and Austria for spying, would not say how many people were on the dismissed KGB "collegium," which includes all department heads.

Mr. Titov, who as KGB chief in East Germany in 1990 moved the Stasi secret police files to Moscow, was named to help a presidential commission assigned by Mr. Gorbachev to investigate the KGB. It also will recommend reorganisation and laws to limit KGB activities.

Mr. Bakatin, who said he intends to "liquidate" the huge spy agency, has already slashed its power by transferring 230,000 border guards plus some 20,000 other troops; the presidential security detail; military counter-intelligence; and government communications and encoding, which cost one-quarter of the KGB's budget.

He said he did not expect large-scale firings since most employees would be transferred to other government agencies. Members of the Presidential Commission said the KGB has 650,000 to 700,000 staffers.

The new Soviet Foreign Minister, Boris Yeltsin, said in a Swedish newspaper article published Thursday that the KGB should be dissolved after its involvement in

the coup. He said the plotters' assumption that they could succeed showed they were "humiliatingly misinformed" about reality both inside and outside the country.

When asked in the Supreme Soviet legislature Thursday if he would halt bugging of parliamentarians, Mr. Bakatin said he had made an "unorthodox" appointment of the KGB's first female general to head the department in charge of eavesdropping and told her to end all illegal activity.

Mr. Bakatin is moving swiftly to break the KGB's power, but he admitted in the television interview that the task is enormous. Asked if a long-rumoured network of tunnels and cells really exists beneath the KGB complex in downtown Moscow, Mr. Bakatin replied, "I don't even know what's behind there," gesturing at the wall behind his new desk.

The legislature, after approving Mr. Bakatin's appointment, named its own committee to plan reorganisation of the entire security apparatus: The KGB, the Defence Ministry and the Interior Ministry, which handles police and has its own troops, including the notorious "black berets" blamed for violence in the Baltics.

Bakatin said the only criminal cases handled by the KGB should be corruption, terrorism, major financial crimes, high treason and inciting inter-ethnic violence.

## Pravda to resume publication today

**MOSCOW (Agencies)** — The Soviet Union's best-known newspaper, Pravda, will resume publishing Saturday, but as an independent publication rather than the mouthpiece of the Communist Party, the Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported.

The newspaper was suspended by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and has not appeared since Aug. 23. Mr. Yeltsin accused Pravda of backing an attempted coup by hardline Communists against Mikhail Gorbachev.

Pravda, which means Truth in Russian, was founded by Lenin in 1912 and has been the standard bearer of his political movement ever since.

Pravda journalists decided earlier this week that since the Communist Party's Central Committee had virtually ceased to exist, they would rewrite their charter to make themselves masters of the paper.

The journalists accused Russian officials of exacting political revenge against the paper. They said they would keep Pravda's name, for reasons of tradition and because a name change would likely cut circulation.

Gennady Seleznev, the previous first deputy chief editor, was chosen the new editor, TASS said.

## Lukyanov arrested

**MOSCOW (R)** — Soviet speaker Anatoly Lukyanov, facing treason charges for his alleged part in last week's failed hardline coup, has been arrested and his office searched, Soviet News Agency (TASS) said Friday.

Citing Russian Prosecutor Valentin Stepanov, who is now leading the coup investigation, TASS said Lukyanov was arrested Thursday evening, hours after parliament "ended his immunity."

His arrest was reported earlier by the independent Interfax News Agency.

Parliamentarians voted overwhelmingly to lift the powerful speaker's immunity after the Soviet prosecutor said there was enough evidence to arrest him for his role in the bungled putsch.

The decision, approved without debate, removed Mr. Lukyanov, the number three in the Soviet hierarchy, and extended the investigation into the coup deeper into the circle surrounding Mr. Gorbachev.

Mr. Lukyanov, who has denied any involvement in the takeover bid, faces a possible death sentence if convicted.

## Blacks and Jews — uneasy neighbours in New York

**NEW YORK (AP)** — When blacks in Brooklyn rioted, burned an Israeli flag and shouted "kill the Jews" during a week of protests, their orthodox Jewish neighbours blamed the violence on racial hatred.

But blacks see the conflict differently. They say Jews get preferential treatment from police and city agencies, wield more political power even though they are a minority and live a segregated lifestyle so they don't have to interact with their black neighbours.

The protests began last week after a black child playing on a sidewalk in the Crown Heights section was struck by a car and killed. A preliminary police investigation found the driver, an ultra-orthodox Jew, ran a red light, but no charges have been filed.

Blacks, furious that the driver was not arrested, began rioting. An orthodox Jew who was not involved in the accident was stabbed to death. Police and journalists covering the unrest were injured. Dozens of protesters were arrested. Mayor David Dinkins was chased out of the neighbourhood by angry crowds throwing rocks and bottles.

To Jews living in the area — most of them members of the insular Lubavitcher Hasidic sect — the black community's response was an anti-semitic reaction to a tragic accident.

"When we were children, pogroms were words in history books," said Rabbi Shmuel Berman, referring to the rampages against Jews in Eastern Europe in the last century. "Unfortunately, we in this neighbourhood have seen blood libel with our very own eyes."

Blacks have a different view. "The real issue here is the preferential treatment for the Hasidim," said Ernie Foster, chairman of the African People's Political Club. "These people are being catered to."



A New York policeman and a protester tug at each other during the fourth consecutive night of violence in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn between police and residents.

For example, blacks note that an unmarked police car escorts the Lubavitchers' spiritual leader, the Rebbe Menachem Schneerson, on a weekly visit to his wife's grave. The car that killed the black child was part of that weekly entourage.

There's no denying that the Lubavitchers live apart from their black neighbours. Because of their strict religious observances, they have kosher food stores, arranged marriages, even special clothing — long black coats and hats for the men, long skirts and wigs for women.

The Lubavitchers also have their own parochial schools, private ambulances and a private security force.

The Hasidim say they are supplementing city services that are inadequate in poor, crime-ridden areas like Crown Heights.

Blacks say the Jewish security patrols harass law-abiding blacks

and that the private ambulances only treat Hasidim, accusations that the Jews deny.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, a black activist, calls the Lubavitchers' separate world nothing less than apartheid.

"People will tell you it's an accident," Rev. Sharpton told mourners at the funeral of the black child. "It is an accident for one group of people to be treated better than another? Is it an accident that you allow a minority of people to perpetrate their will on a majority?"

The Lubavitchers respond angrily to such talk.

"Look at what the Jewish community has built — family values, good schools, commercial enterprises. Don't say that because I made it and you didn't make it, you're going to destroy it," said Lubavitcher spokesman Yehuda Kinsky.

Hasidim make up about 20 per

cent of the area's 100,000 residents. Yet, blacks claim, the Lubavitchers get more political influence than the majority black population.

Indeed, when blacks began moving into the area in the 1970s, election lines were redrawn to concentrate the Jewish vote.

The Rev. Herbert Daughtry, a longtime civil rights activist, said, "we warned they were sowing the seeds of discord. Our pleas fell on deaf ears."

Black community leaders also say that if the Lubavitchers really want peace now, their grand rabbi would get personally involved.

But Lubavitchers insist it is not the 88-year-old Schneerson's role to meet with committees on sectional problems. Instead, he is a revered spiritual leader whose only involvement so far has been to bless Mayor Dinkins — who is black — during a symbolic five-minute visit.

## Ukraine moves to create army, currency

**KIEV, USSR (AP)** — The Ukraine moved to create its own army and currency Thursday after signing an agreement with Russia for a temporary economic and military alliance.

Emphasising the rapid collapse of the Soviet Union, the agreement by the two richest and most industrialised Soviet republics referred to the "former USSR."

"It is the most important event in the 1,000-year history between the Ukraine and Russia," said Yuri Stcherbak, a Ukrainian writer and deputy of the federal Supreme Soviet legislature that is meeting in Moscow.

In a meeting with reporters, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said he was trying to call a summit of the heads of all 15 Soviet republics — without the participation of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev — to discuss creation of an economic union.

Russia and Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan had been invited, and Mr. Kravchuk said the Kazakh president had already accepted. No date was set.

Many of the Soviet republics are seeking independence and do not want Gorbachev or the Kremlin to play a role in any talks.

Mr. Kravchuk met for two hours Thursday with commanders of the 1.3 million Soviet soldiers and sailors stationed in the Ukraine, the second-most populous republic.

"This is an initial step toward establishing our own Ministry of Defence, but the process could take weeks or months," said Mr. Kravchuk's spokesman, Adam Votivovich.

Mr. Votivovich said Mr. Kravchuk sought advice from the dozen military commanders about how to set up a ministry and who should run it. Lawmakers said some of the Soviet military

men might be enticed to join the Ukrainian force as well.

"Only when the Soviet army is broken up, will we be able to say the empire has died," said lawmaker Stepan Khmara, who was released from prison last week by a print of parliament. He had been accused of beating a policeman, but independence activists said he was a political prisoner.

The Ukraine also began negotiating with printing companies in Canada, Germany and Switzerland to print a currency that would replace the Soviet ruble, said Les Tanuk, a member of the presidium, or executive council, of the Ukrainian parliament.

Mr. Tanuk predicted that it would take at least four months to introduce the bills.

Meanwhile, the Russian delegation that came to Kiev to sign the agreement on the alliance reaffirmed a November 1990 agreement between the republics to respect each other's borders.